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THE TIMES

The great Labour drinks scandal: Bernard Levin, page 14

Civil Service unions decide today on future disruptions

Civil Service union leaders will meet today to decide how to continue their "guerrilla action" strikes against government and defence services, after what they regard as yesterday's highly successful one-day protest stoppage in their pay dispute. Hundreds of thousands of civil servants caused widespread disruption to airports, tax computer services, courts, and public services generally. Union leaders claimed that the strike was supported by 450,000 white-collar workers. Government estimates were that 290,000 staff were involved. Support was greatest outside London.

Conflict over numbers in one-day stoppage

By David Felton
Labour Reporter

Hundreds of thousands of civil servants caused widespread disruption yesterday to airports, courts, tax computer centres, and public services generally during a 24-hour strike called in protest at the Government's 7 per cent pay offer and its suspension of the Civil Service pay agreement.

Union leaders claimed that the strike, which marks the first stage in a continuing campaign of "guerrilla" action, was supported by 450,000 white-collar workers in government departments and offices. The Government countered that it estimated about 290,000 staff were involved.

The large turnout to the strike call by the nine unions in the Civil Service was hailed by union leaders as magnificent. The Civil Service Department said the action had been effective and had halted or disrupted many government operations.

Support for the service's first coordinated national strike, was much greater outside London and the unions claimed that in some areas there had been a 99 per cent response.

"This should kill once and for all the myth that civil servants work in Whitehall, which represents only a small proportion", a spokesman for the Council of Civil Service Unions said.

White-collar staff taking part in the protest ranged from clerks, typists, and tea ladies to senior staff in the Whitehall ministries. The unions said they had received reports that some staff in ministers' private offices had not reported for duty.

Tourist attractions in London such as the Tower and several museums were closed and few driving tests were held around the country as 75 per cent of staff in the centres walked out. Production of banknotes and coins was halted at the Royal Mint where, according to government figures, 93 per cent of the staff were on strike.

The unions have drawn up a list of targets for future disruption and will try to negate the tax changes which Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer, is expected to announce in today's Budget.

However, last night the Customs and Excise said that management of the department are confident that any changes announced by the Chancellor in his speech will be implemented at the proper time". The unions had forecast that increases in petrol, cigarette, and drink prices could be delayed because of their planned action.

The operations of Parliament were not affected, although 20 per cent of the Cabinet Office staff did not work. Pickets were out in Whitehall and Downing Street and postal workers and a van delivering laundry were turned away from No 10 by the pickets.

Ministers meeting to discuss the effects of the strike heard that parts of the country's intelligence-gathering network had been affected, including sections of the seven listening stations and the Government Communications Headquarters at Cheltenham.

Defence operations were also disrupted, including the Wintex-81 Nato exercise, which opened yesterday, and is a *test* of the West's preparedness for an attack from the Soviet Union. Work at several naval dockyards around the country was affected although the Polaris submarine base on the *Clyde suffered only minor disruption.*

About 60 per cent of Customs and Excise workers were *on* strike and, with very few customs officers on duty, long queues of traffic built up at the approaches to ports. Honesty boxes for excess duty were provided at Dover for passengers who returned with more than their allowance of duty free goods.

Most value added tax offices were closed, and the VAT computer centre at Southend, a *target for future union action*, was not operated. With 70 per cent of Inland Revenue staff on strike, about half the country's 1,200 tax offices were closed, with virtually no work being done at the remainder.

That was because support for the strike was strong at the tax computer centres at Cumber*nauld, Shipley, Liverpool, and* East Kilbride. Those centres are also likely targets for future strikes as the unions attempt to thwart the Government's collection of revenues.

Less than half the Sheriff courts in Scotland were able to sit, and 37 court sittings in England and Wales were postponed. There were reports that drivers of vans bringing prisoners to court were refusing *to cross picket lines.*

Work stopped at the vehicle licensing centre at Swansea, where 85 per cent of the staff were absent, and there were closures of social security offices and job centres.

The Government said that with 64 per cent of staff in the Department of Health and Social Security on strike, only 36 local offices opened. The department's main computer centre, at Newcastle upon Tyne, was closed and other computer centres, at North Flyde, Reading, and Livingston, were not *operating.*

Flights grounded: The Civil Aviation Authority said that there was strong support for the strike at the air traffic control centres at West Drayton, near Heathrow airport, Manchester, and Prestwick (Our Air Correspondent writes).

None of the 2,500 flights which normally operate in Britain's airspace, flew, although some package holiday airlines and air taxi firms flew at altitudes below the airways level.

Those were guided by air traffic controllers employed by local authorities or, in a few cases, the Services.

Heathrow was brought to a standstill for the first time in *its 35 years' history, and the* usually busy terminals were almost deserted.

Photograph by Bill Warhurst

Mr Ian Whitehouse, a civil servant, waiting at Heathrow for a flight to Winnipeg—now due to leave today.

Strike hailed as 'magnificent success'

By Paul Routledge
Labour Editor

Civil Service union leaders meet this morning to decide how to continue to disrupt *government and defence services* after what they regard as a highly successful one-day protest stoppage.

The policy committee of the Council of Civil Service Unions, comprising general secretaries and presidents of the nine unions involved in the confrontation with the Cabinet, has been called into emergency session.

Mr William Kendall, the council's general secretary, described the 24-hour strike as a magnificent success and predicted: "The selective action will continue, and we will continue to put the boot in in all areas that affect the Government until such time as somebody says they are prepared to negotiate or arbitrate".

He added that "nobody is going to shift" on the package of selective strikes, involving more than 1,000 civil servants, that will disrupt defence establishments, military surveillance, *implementation of the Budget* and the flow tax revenue to the Treasury.

The confidence of the unions, however, has cut little ice with the strategists of the Civil Service Department. Industrial relations experts working under Mr Gordon Burrett, deputy secretary, on a new scheme for *determining* salaries for government employees expect to take weeks rather than months to complete their task.

Officials are pessimistic about finding a compromise formula to put to the Civil Service unions as a replacement for the Pay Research Unit, which for practical purposes has been abolished by the Cabinet after 25 years of providing information *on the gap between* public and private employment.

Their pessimism is pointed up by Mr Kendall's strong line: "There must be movement on the 7 per cent pay offer. There must be a positive guarantee on a pay formula for 1982, and an understanding on arbitration...

"There is no way in which *the unions can go back to their* members if there is no improvement."

Ministers went out of their way yesterday to insist that cash limits for the public services would be adhered to. There could be no improvement on the Government's pay offer and the promise to look at future arrangements for determining Civil Service pay levels.

The unions are hoping that the scale of yesterday's strike will shake ministers into getting *in touch with them, but no* talks are planned yet. On the contrary, the unions will announce today a fresh programme of disruption at ports and airports.

Union working parties are drawing up plans to call out civil servants working PAYE and corporation tax computers at *Shipley, West Yorkshire, and* Cumbernauld, near Glasgow, when the *system* is sated with cheques and cash payments, to deprive the Government of as much revenue as possible.

Day of action, page 2
Kendall profile, page 14
Leading article, page 15

Social Democrats seek complete victory at polls, Mr Jenkins says

By Fred Emery
Political Editor

Mr Roy Jenkins last night announced that the new Social Democrat Party to be launched next month would seek mass membership and fight by-elections, but would concentrate on "complete victory" at the general election to form a government with the Liberals.

Speaking at a meeting of the Oxford Union Society, Mr Jenkins said that "well before Easter" the Council for Social Democracy would have been turned into the Social Democrat *Party. It would use* to the full what he called the "period of the greatest flux in British politics" since the break-up of the old Liberal Party in the 1920s.

"We look for a mass membership. We shall welcome the formation of local groups. We shall mount a major campaign of meetings. We shall be prepared to fight by-elections, although like any sensible force we shall choose our ground and not allow it to be dictated by others", Mr Jenkins said.

"Our sights will be essentially *concentrated upon* the next general election—probably about two and a half years away, a long enough period to choose our momentum, a short enough one to choose our powers of organization.

"At that election, working in close and friendly arrangement with the Liberals which is, I believe, our mutual desire and is certainly in our mutual interest, our aim will be no less than complete victory with a majority in the House of Commons and a Social Democrat/Liberal Government of Britain".

Mr Jenkins said that in the present state of public opinion and the "great chord of response which we have already struck" victory was feasible.

He went on: "Much will depend how effectively the new party canalizes and maintains the enthusiasm which has been engendered, but the opportunity is there and if we fail to take it because of any Liberal-Social Democrat failure to work together, that would show an appalling lack of preparation and thrust on both our parts."

Fabian resignations: The four members of the newly formed Council of Social Democracy who are also on the executive of the Fabian Society have offered their resignations to save the society from having a politically divided leadership (*Ian Bradley writes*).

Mrs Shirley Williams was elected chairman of the society last November. Mr John Roper, MP for Farnworth, has been treasurer since 1976, and Mr John Cartwright, MP for Greenwich, Woolwich East, and Mr David Sainsbury were on the executive.

Their resignations, which are likely to be accepted at a meeting of the executive a week today, will end a period of embarrassment for the Fabians.

The society is an affiliated organization of the Labour Party with voting rights at the annual party conference. However, several of its leading members have now left the party and become committed social democrats.

There is concern in the society that a sizable minority of its 3,800 members might follow the chairman and join the new party.

Syrian troops move in around hijacked jet

From Robert Fisk
Beirut, March 9

Seven lorry-loads of Syrian troops *carrying* automatic rifles and radios, drove tonight into Damascus airport where 130 passengers and crew on the seized Pakistani airliner were enduring the longest hijack ever.

Although there was no suggestion that the aircraft was about to be seized the Pakistan Government is thought to have sanctioned the use of force if necessary.

The three young Pakistanis, holding their hostages at gunpoint, today stepped up their demands on their Government.

A stewardess, released tonight after a seven-day ordeal on the aircraft, said that they had threatened to kill all the passengers if these demands were not met. Miss Forzana Sharif, aged 22, *said* that among *130* people on board were three Americans, a Canadian, an Algerian, a *Swede*, 11 *Afghanis* and a United Nations official. Most of the passengers were Arabs from the Gulf states.

The identity of the hijackers became clearer only a few hours after their Boeing airliner landed at Damascus from Kabul this morning. Questioned by Syrian Government officials, *they* listed *fresh* demands in exchange from the lives of their captives, including the freeing of all members of the Zulfikar Group, an organization loyal to the banned Pakistan People's Party.

They insisted that the Government of President Zia ul-Haq must end its "propaganda campaign" against the organization and that the authorities in Pakistan should release two named prisoners from jail.

The green and white jet was parked throughout the day about 600 yards from the airport control tower, where Syrian Government negotiators set up the traditional lines of communication with which all aircraft hijackers are now familiar: radio transmissions between *aircraft* and *ground* control, interspersed with long and ominous radio silences.

The three hijackers quickly established that they were members of Zulfikar group, named after the late People's Party leader, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, who was hanged by President Zia's Government in April, 1979.

Mr Sarfaraz Khan, the Pakistani Ambassador in Damascus, stood next to Syrian officials in *the control tower as the hijackers* listed their demands and then left hurriedly to consult *by radio with his Government in* Islamabad. It was clear from the start that the original demands—for the release of 92 opponents of the Zia regime—had been amplified and expan-

Continued on page 6, col 8

Heavy odds against apartheid in casinostans

From Nicholas Ashford
Johannesburg, March 9

South Africa, where gambling is illegal except on horses, is *undergoing a severe bout of* gambling fever. Growing numbers of South Africans of all *races, enriched by the country's* present gold-fuelled economic boom, are pouring out huge sums of money in casinos which are springing up around South Africa's borders.

At present there are seven casinos operating within easy driving distance of Johannesburg, Pretoria and the Reef towns where most of the country's surplus wealth is produced. Another five are due to open their doors to South African gamblers before the end of the year.

The casinos are situated either in independent black states such as Swaziland, Lesotho and Botswana, which abut on South Africa's borders, or in the "independent" tribal homelands which are being established as a central part of the country's apartheid policy.

The homelands, otherwise known as Bantustans, have been dubbed "casinostans" because of the importance of gambling to their otherwise impoverished economies. The ultra-right-wing Herstigte Nasionale Party (HNP), *which is conducting* an embarrassingly effective electoral campaign against the ruling National Party, has dismissed the Government plan to establish a "constellation of southern African states" as a "*constellation of casinos*".

The gambling craze began several years ago when the *Holiday Inn* hotel chain *made* the establishment of a casino a condition of their opening hotels in Swaziland and Lesotho. The impact was immediate. In Swaziland the Royal Swazi Spa which had only 60 bedrooms when it opened has become so popular that another 640 have been added.

In Lesotho there were only 100 hotel bedrooms before the advent of gambling. Now there are 700 with the *Holiday Inn* and Hilton hotels competing with each other for customers.

But the real expansion in gambling has taken place during the past year or so after the *establishment of a glittering* Las Vegas-style fun palace known as Sun City in the Bophuthatswana homeland.

Sun City is only two hours' drive from Johannesburg, and every Saturday and Sunday 10,000 or more weekend gamblers pour across there from the industrial heart of South Africa to try their luck on the roulette tables and slot machines.

The money spent on building casinos woud be much better spent on building schools or *developing agriculture, it is* argued. The opposing view is that casinos provide a way of spreading the country's white-controlled wealth around rural black areas. If it was not for gambling, it is said, these territories would have virtually no other ways of raising revenue.

The advocates in favour of casinos also argue that they promote racial harmony. All of them are fully multi-racial and *provide a rare opportunity for* blacks and whites to gamble, dance, eat and even sleep together.

French try to halt foot and mouth

From Ian Murray
Paris, March 9

The French authorities have sealed off the village of Henansal, near Lamballe, in Brittany where four animals have died from foot-and-mouth disease since last Thursday.

The region is intensively farmed by pig breeders and teams have been called in to carry out a systematic vaccination of the 300,000 pigs *on* farms within seven miles of the village. In addition 4,000 pigs and 140 cattle from the farms where the outbreak was confirmed have been slaughtered.

A special headquarters to control the operation has been set up in Lamballe to try to prevent any repetition of the *epidemic which in 1974* decimated livestock in Brittany.

All road traffic into the area *has been stopped, while pedestrians* are having to undergo decontamination controls.

Threat to Britain: The danger of the spread of foot-and-mouth disease from France to Britain has been reduced by the heavy rain in southern England (Hugh Clayton writes). Although the virus found in France is a type which can be transferred readily by wind, it is washed out of the sky in wet weather. The Meteorological Office reported yesterday that winds in southern England were blowing towards France.

The outbreaks in France are the closest to Britain for more than a year. There were several outbreaks in Normandy in late 1979. The most recent European *outbreak outside* France was confirmed in Austria last week.

The disease is one of the *most costly known to livestock* farmers because of its rapid spread and the damage it can cause to animals through sores and lameness. Young animals can die from it.

It is rarely passed to the human population, in whom it produces symptoms similar to those of influenza. The last case of foot-and-mouth in man in Britain was in 1966.

Soviet note arrives at No 10

By Our Diplomatic Staff

Mr Victor Popov, the Soviet Ambassador, called on Mrs Margaret Thatcher yesterday to deliver a letter from President Brezhnev containing as expected, what Downing Street described as an "amplification" of the President's speech at last month's Communist Party Congress in *Moscow*.

His visit lasted 45 minutes. It was Mr Popov's first such call—and the first of a Soviet ambassador since Mrs Thatcher and Lord Carrington's angry meeting with Mr Nicolai Lunkov in January, 1980, after the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

Among other subjects discussed were arms control, the European Security review conference in Madrid, and Anglo-Soviet relations generally.

"The Prime Minister pointed out that it would be much easier to negotiate with the Russians if their troops were out of Afghanistan." Downing Street said but described as "private" the details of President Brezhnev's letter.

Fresh nuances: Government sources in Bonn said there were "new nuances in the letter received by *Herr Schmidt*, the West German Chancellor, on Saturday.

In Rome, Mr Nikolai Lunkov, the Soviet Ambassador, said before delivering Mr Brezhnev's message to Signor Arnaldo Forlani, the Prime Minister, that it contained "good news for Italy".

In Denmark, Mr Anker Jørgensen, the Prime Minister, is said to regard the Brezhnev letter as "interesting and worthwhile".

Leading article, page 15

Budget measures likely to help business

The Budget speech today by Sir Geoffrey Howe, *Chancellor of the Exchequer*, is expected to take about one-hour-and-three-quarters. Apart from the expected tax increases there would be measures to help business, including a possible two per cent cut in minimum lending rate. Also published will be the public expenditure White Paper, coinciding with the Budget for the second year running, the Defence Estimates, the Civil Estimates, and the Civil List Pages 17, 18

'M5 rapist' jailed

John Richard Gerald Lambe, known as the M5 rapist, who for three years carried *out attacks on women in the West Country*, was jailed for life yesterday. A builder, aged 37, of Fordingbridge, Hampshire, he was given a life sentence on each of 12 counts of rape. He admitted these and other offences Page 5

£100m rural rail hope

Proposals to save more than 1,000 miles of rural railway in England and Wales at a cost of £100m have been put to the Department of Transport by British Rail. The scheme is expected to win the backing of Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Transport. A *Leyland bus body* is at the heart of the plan Page 3

West Bank court

The first Israeli civilian court to operate in the occupied West Bank since the area was conquered from the Arabs in 1967 is to be established next month. It will deal with the 4,000 Jewish residents in the settlement of Kiryat Arba but not with the 60,000 Palestinians in the town of Hebron Page 6

Warsaw talks to avert strike today

Mr Lech Walesa, leader of Solidarity, the Polish free trade union organization, had *talks with Mr Mieczyslaw Rakowski*, the deputy Prime Minister, in an attempt to avert a strike due to take place today in Lodz. In Moscow the virtual disintegration of the Polish Communist Party is causing concern and the rebuilding of its shattered authority is considered to be an urgent priority Page 6

Fisheries impasse

British ministers told Mr Gaston Thorn, President of the European Commission, *that they would not compromise on their* demand for large trawlers to be kept out of a belt between 12 and 50 miles from *Britain's northern coast. Mr Thorn* was making brief visits to London and Paris to seek a compromise between the British *and French positions* Page 7

£4m attack on cancer

A £4m research project has been started to treat deep-seated cancers that kill about 145,000 *Britons* a year. A powerful cyclotron is to be built at Clatterbridge hospital, Wirral, that will focus a beam of *radiation* to tumours of the gastro-intestinal tract, for which there is no satisfactory treatment at present. Also investigations will be carried out at Liverpool University into cells and radiation Page 3

Sex murderer goes to electric chair

Steven Judy, who raped and murdered a young mother and drowned her three children, was executed in the electric chair at Michigan City, Indiana, showing no remorse for his crimes. He was the fourth person executed in the United States since a 10-year moratorium on capital punishment ended in January, 1977. There are 731 people awaiting execution in American prisons Page 5

Public buying move designed to assist sale of British goods

House of Commons

The Government had taken an initiative to encourage public sector purchasers to discuss in advance their requirements with suppliers, most of whom were in the private sector, Mr Kenneth Baker, Minister of State for Industry, said.

Asked what action the Government was taking to encourage both the public and private sectors of industry to buy British, Mr Baker (City of Westminster, St Marylebone, C) said both sectors could do much to stimulate the competitiveness of their suppliers so that British goods were well-designed.

Mr Peter Fraser (South Angus, C) The purpose of a buy-British campaign is not just to provide a home market but also to underpin our export effort.

It would be desirable if major purchasers in both the public and private sectors so set their specifications. British goods would not only be competitive in the world market but also extremely marketable.

Mr Baker: That is a good point. Too often in the past, public purchasing not just by government but by public agencies has been too concerned with purchasing a specific particular product which is available for one specific particular purpose.

There is all too much emphasis on buying the tailor-made rather than on the ready-to-wear. Part of the efforts of my department should concern that.

Mr Nicholas Budgen (Wolverhampton, South-West, C): How is this important initiative compatible with the Government's desire firstly to maintain competitive forces within our home economy and secondly to bring down the sterling exchange rate?

Mr Baker: What we are proposing is action not different from that of our international competitors in many areas.

On the question of competitiveness and value for money, we are trying in the public sector to establish the sort of relationship that exists in the private sector where customer and supplier work closely together on a particular project and as a result design something which can be genuinely sold.

In the private sector that is the normal way of doing things. That is how it gets value for money.

Look at Marks and Spencer for example. There is a close relationship there between the supplier and the customer. No one can say they do not get value for money from their suppliers.

Cable and Wireless 'escapes dead hand of Treasury'

The Government had decided to make a public offer for sale of just less than 50 per cent of its shares in Cable and Wireless Ltd, Mr Kenneth Baker, Minister of State for Industry announced.

In a statement Mr Baker (City of Westminster, St Marylebone, C) said: On December 2 the Secretary of State for Industry told the House that in the British Telecommunications Bill the Government had included a clause broadening its power to dispose of shares in Cable and Wireless.

Since then we have been considering, in close consultation with the company, whether and how shares might be sold. Before reaching a final conclusion we consulted, through the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, all the governments of the 30 or so countries in which Cable and Wireless operates telecommunications services under a government concession. No objections have been raised

The Government has now decided to make a public offer for sale of just less than 50 per cent of its shares, subject to obtaining the necessary powers in the British Telecommunications Bill. We and the company are agreed that when shares are offered for sale special arrangements will be made for employees to acquire shares.

Cable and Wireless already enjoys a large degree of commercial freedom. The Government intend to refrain from using their rights as a shareholder to intervene in the company's commercial decisions.

Cable and Wireless will be freed from the close relationship which exists between the Government and public corporations which must on occasion constrain the company from being wholly responsive to market forces.

The part ownership formula we have decided on will follow broadly the precedent set in the case of BP, leaving the Government with a major shareholding capable of safeguarding overseas governments' interests as necessary.

The chairman and court of directors of Cable and Wireless are in agreement with this line of action. Cable and Wireless has had a long record of achievement both in private hands and since 1946 as a public sector company. The proposed sale of shares will create a partnership between the public and private sectors.

This new arrangement will provide the commercial flexibility and access to the financial markets necessary to exploit the growth and opportunities in the rapidly expanding telecommunications sector.

Mr Leslie Huckfield, an Opposition spokesman on industry, (Nuneaton, Lab): The selling off of these shares in a highly successful and profitable company is perhaps the silliest and most doctrinaire act of a government which has totally lost its way in industrial and economic policy.

The original reason for public ownership was that the Reith Commission encountered complete unanimity among all the Commonwealth governments that all of these were matters which were too sensitive for purely commercial exploitation.

Is he really claiming that adequate consultation has taken place when there are more than 70 not 30 governments involved. Has any guarantee or assurance been given that these shares cannot finally be owned and controlled by foreign purchasers?

This is yet one more act of a government which is prepared to give away prime sections of the British economy with good growth prospects in technology for purely short-term and doctrinaire reasons.

Mr Baker: We have consulted those governments where Cable and Wireless had a concession from the government concerned. I have been personally involved with the government of Hongkong where it has its most important concession and Mr Michael Marshall, Under Secretary for Industry, led the discussion with the government of Bahrain which is the second most important. They have accepted our proposals for the sale of shares.

In the other areas where there are concessions there was no objection by the governments to our proposals.

Regarding ownership by foreigners, as two-thirds of the employees work overseas we would not want to put a bar on overseas people owning shares in Cable and Wireless.

As to a foreign government shareholding we have no indication that any government would want to do that. They did not in the case of BP. It is highly unlikely. There are some protections in the articles of association of the company.

State ownership is doctrinaire. It has dragged down this country's performance over many years.

With his old-fashioned dogma that the state must own everything it is no wonder that so many of Mr Huckfield's former colleagues have rejected his dead-end thinking and formed a party of their own.

Mr Robin Maxwell-Hyslop (Tiverton, C): Can we have an assurance that in future Cable and Wireless will be run as a business and not as some sort of organization to be used in its chairmanship as a depository for time-expired Labour chief whips?

Mr Baker: We would not seek to interfere in the commercial decisions of the company. One of the great advantages to the company of the sale is that it is going to escape from the dead hand of the British Treasury. (Laughter.)

Mr Ian Mikardo (Tower Hamlets, Bethnal Green and Bow, Lab): That last remark will be carefully filed for future reference. (Laughter.) Some overseas administrations have agreed to the proposal to sell shares because the announcement that the Government was proposing partly to break up Cable and Wireless has damaged the company's business so much that shares have fallen in value and overseas administrations will have a bargain.

Quite apart from anything that happens in the future what the Government has done already inflicted grave damage on the company.

Mr Baker: I would refute that allegation completely. Since the statement was made in December we have discussed this fully during proceedings on the Bill. The revenue of the company has not been affected in any way.

Sir William Clark (Croydon, South, C): The decision will be widely welcomed not only on this side of the Commons but in the country.

Mr Baker: There is good sense in this proposal. It will produce a partnership. I am sure many of the employees will want to buy shares.

Many of those at British Aerospace bought shares. There might be some difficulties in some governments on employee shareholding because of the complicated tax regimes. We are trying to find ways of meeting that difficulty.

Mr Charles Morris (Manchester, Openshaw, Lab): His statement will be considered as a form of commercial vandalism by many who have the interests of the company at heart.

Mr Baker: I refute his allegation.

Mr David Penhaligon (Truro, L): What percentage of the shares are expected to be sold to British employees?

Mr Baker: Shares will be made available on a wide basis to employees. The amount which a sale of shares would raise would depend upon market conditions prevailing at the time. I am not prepared to speculate on this.

The market knows that it is a successful company and I would expect the shares to be an attractive investment. I hope that the total proceeds to the Government will be in excess of £100m.

Mr Raymond Whitney (Wycombe, C): Why is it not possible to put a greater percentage of shares on the market? Could he undertake to advise the Government that this step towards privatization could well be copied in other sectors of nationalized industry?

Mr Baker: That is a point which the Government is reviewing constantly where opportunities like this can arise. On the question of why the Government decided to sell just short of 50 per cent, it was a fine judgment we took that at this stage it was best to go down the BP route, but that does not preclude the sale of further shares in future years. The services that the company has given in the past will be improved substantially when this happened.

Mr Huckfield: It gets worse every answer. He keeps rev... that he simply does not unde... that this company has be... public corporation. It is a l... company the shares of whic... owned by the Governmer... already has maximum comm... freedom. (Conservative int... tions.)

The provisions in the int... articles of association offe... legally water-tight formula a... foreign control and ownershi... far he has given no reass... against interests abroad g... majority influence.

I am not dodging the ... renationalization. Every po... purchaser of these shares s... be aware of the commitmen... policy of the Labour Party—... servative shouts of "... one?"—which has been c... stated inside and outside House.

Mr Baker: Governments in past have restricted the com... cial freedom of the company; the question of foreign s... holdings, there are provisio... the articles of association provide some barrier, but I look into that again.

Is he saying that a La... government of which he w... be a member, provided one re-elected, would want re-nationalize these shares, it would want to buy them from a whole host of small s... holders, insurance companies pension funds, and that would be one of the priorities of that Labour go... ment? If he believes that h... not only being stupid but n...

Competition through use of more robots

Britain would lose competitiveness unless it adopted and used robots and robotic equipment, Mr Kenneth Baker, Minister of State for Industry, said.

Mr Iain Mills (Meriden, C) had asked the Secretary of State for Industry what action the Government was taking to encourage the use of robots in industry.

Mr Baker (City of Westminster, St Marylebone, C): My department provides support for awareness, research, use and manufacture of robots. In addition, the Science Research Council looks ahead to the next generation of robots with its recently-launched Government and industry partnership. Current Government support is running at about £1.3m per annum.

Mr Iain Mills (Meriden, C): People in the West Midlands and elsewhere will be reassured. This whole process of the introduction of robots not only in the car industry, but others, is vital. Will he consider direct grants for the purchase of such robotics?

Mr Baker: Such support is available for the purchase of robots and equipment, particularly in the engineering industry.

Mr Kenneth Lewis (Rutland and Stamford, C): In view of what has happened today in the public sector, when it is proposed to introduce robots to the Civil Service and at Government level? If this was done, we might have some better advice than we have had in the last year or so. (Laughter.)

Mr Baker: There are certain human activities which are not applicable to robotics.

Mr John Garrett (Norwich South, Lab): Much of the work on developing robots is carried out in this country but we are lagging behind similar countries in their application. It is so often the case of inventions not being developed. The £1.3m being devoted by the Government in this area is trifling compared to Japan and France.

Mr Baker: I would probably agree. I am anxious to increase this programme. What we are lacking more than anything is ideas coming forward.

Japan has as many robots and machines in use today as the rest of the world put together. This is something we cannot afford to be complacent about.

Phoenix concept seeks to save steel jobs

Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Industry, welcomed the recent announcement by BSC and GKN of an agreement in principle to form a new joint company, Allied Steel and Wire Limited, and said he hoped to receive further agreed proposals for other public sector/private sector joint companies in the other steel making sectors where there was overlap.

Mr Frank Hooley (Sheffield, Heeley, Lab) asked: Is it not outrageous that the trade unions concerned were given one hour's notice of the so-called Phoenix I re-shuffle?

Will he give a categorical assurance that there will be widespread consultation with the engineering, steel, electricians and all the unions involved before we get mixed up in this ideological Phoenix II re-shuffle?

Sir Keith Joseph (Leeds, North-East, C)—: No, I cannot. Very delicate negotiations between the nationalized steel industry and private companies were involved.

I fear that the jobs of many people might be jeopardized if there were widespread consultation.

Mr Peter Emery (Honiton, C): Can he give any further knowledge about the negotiations concerning Phoenix II?

Sir Keith Joseph: I am assured that the preliminaries for negotiations will be set in hand for Phoenix II very soon.

Mr Stanley Orme, chief Opposition spokesman on industry (Salford, West, Lab): I support Mr Hooley's point on consultation. What other action is the minister going to take to support the private sector?

I visited Firth Brown in Sheffield on Friday. They are in a desperate situation regarding financing. They are also a large provider for steel to the British Steeel Corporation.

Can he give a firm assurance of help to the private steel sector?

Sir Keith Joseph: My understanding is that 80 per cent of the private steel sector is not in competition with the British Steel Corporation and is therefore being affected harshly by the precipitate fall in steel prices in the whole of western Europe.

To the extent that there is overlapping, the Phoenix concept is intended, while preserving fierce competition from overseas, to optimize the survival of steel jobs.

Mr John Bruce-Gardyne (Knutsford, C) later asked the Secretary of State for a statement regarding the progress of negotiations on Phoenix II on joint ventures in the steel industry.

Mr Norman Tebbit, Minister of State (Waltham Forest, Chingford, C): Discussions between interested parties are at an early stage, but I am hopeful an agreed proposal for a joint public and private sector company will emerge.

Mr Bruce-Gardyne: If these birds are to rise successfully from the ashes, it is going to be essential they should carry with them the reputation to their customers of the private sector and not the reputation of the British Steel Corporation.

To achieve that, it is essential in the interval that Mr MacGreggor should be reminded that the way to fulfil his contract is not necessarily to go around Europe trying to find the cheapest price, however ludicrous it may be.

Mr Tebbit: I hope that the companies when they are formed will carry with them the best of the reputations of both the British Steel Corporation and the private sector parts of the company.

I regret that the state of the market in Europe in steel is still appalling and with widespread subsidies being offered abroad the price for steel is still low.

Law Lords support Bill to help courts interpret legislation

House of Lords

Aid to interpreting Bills which would provide judges with a uniform principle so that they could know upon what bais to approach the problem of statutory interpretation would be provided by the Interpretation of Legislation Bill, Lord Scarman, a Lord of Appeal, said in moving the second reading of the Bill.

Lord Scarman said that the Bill gave effect to recommendations by the two Law Commissions of the United Kingdom and by the Lord Renton's committee on the preparation of legislation. The Bill dealt with aids to the interpretation of statute law and additional principles which could be introduced into the interpretation of statute law.

Parliament enacted statute law; judges interpreted the law. It was not part of Parliament's duty to interpret the law. It was not part of the judge's duty, save incidentally in the course of judicial work, to make law. If Parliament fell into error in its legislative process, historically the judges could do nothing about it.

If Parliament said one thing but meant another it was not, under the historic principles of the common law for the courts to correct it. That general principle must surely be acceptable.

There was nothing in the limited proposals in the Bill which in any way undermined tha tbiasic constitutional position.

The problem of interpretation was to purdle out from the language used what it was intended that the statutory provision should be. To that basic problem different judges had adopted different approaches, and the limited purpose of the Bill was to make certain that some aids to interpretation which could be helpful could be available to the judges to provide for a uniform basis of principle so that they could know upon what basis to approach the eternal and never-to-be-wholly-solved problem of statutory interpretation.

As a working judge he would fin dthe Bill of assistance in dealing with the perplexities of statutory interpretation.

The Bill set out four classes of aid. It provided that in ascertaining the meaning of the provision of an Act all indicators provided by the Act as printed by authority, including cross heads, punctuation, side notes and the short title, could be taken into consideration.

The second aid was the international agreements referred to in the Act or the copies of which had been presented to Parliament.

Third, any relevant royal commission report, law reform body report or such other report that was relevant to the enactment would be made available to the court. Fourth, where European Community legislation was being enacted that legislation may be looked at in interpreting United Kingdom Acts.

Clause 2 (Principles of interpretation) included the principles to be applied in the interpretation of Acts where more than one construction of the provision under question was reasonably possible.

Under the clause a construction which would promote the general legislative purpose underlying the provision was to be preferred to a construction which would not and a construction which was consistent with the international obligations of the Government was to be preferred to one that was not.

In the absence of any express indication to the contrary, a construction which would exclude retrospective effect was to be preferred.

The Bill proposed a limited degree of intervention in a field historically left to the judges. It was designed to assist judges in their basic task of interpreting statutes so as to give effect to the underlying intention of Parliament, where that was reasonably possible.

Viscount Bledisloe, in a maiden speech, said the Bill was designed to ensure that in some cases the court would achieve the right result which otherwise it might not have done.

Plainly that was desirable. But a balance had to be struck between advantages and any disadvantages there may be. If passed the Bill would add to the length of cases because as more material became relevant so the hearing would become longer. It would make it more complicated and more expensive to advise upon statutory matters. Cost itself could be very productive of injustice.

There were various points to be made in favour of the Bill. But it also had disadvantages which had to be balanced. It was not for him to suggest which side the balance should fall.

Lord Renton (C) said it was right to spell out that the judges should have regard to the general legislative purpose. No harm could be done by doing so. It would have positive advantage.

Lord Wilberforce, a Lord of Appeal, said the interpretation of legislation was just part of the process of being a good lawyer and the Bill could be quite useful.

Appeal judges were not a revolutionary body, holding up liberal tendencies of other courts or of the academics to improve the law. Indeed the opposite was the case.

Lord Gardiner, a former Lord Chancellor, said he supported the Bill. He was not an admirer of the way in which legislation was prepared, nor of the way in which Bills were drafted.

He regretted that even the modest proposals from the Renton committee had not so far been implemented.

Lord Simon of Glaisdale, a former Lord of Appeal, said that there were two leading principles of the British Constitution — the sovereignty of Parliament and the rule of law. Living under the rule of law involved the courts in the task of not only interpreting the law intelligently, but of ascertaining the meaning of what had been said, rather than what Parliament meant to say.

What a legislature or an executive meant to say was relevant in a totalitarian regime, but not in a regime which claimed to live under the rule of law. If the draftsmen, Parliament and the courts did their job properly, what Parliament meant to say should be identical with what the courts declared to be the meaning of the words used by Parliament.

There was a distressing incident in the Race Relations Act where it was left entirely in doubt as to whether the Act was intended to reach working mens' clubs.

It was notorious that a number of working mens' clubs practised racial discrimination. The point was specifically raised in the Lords, and yet the matter was left so much in doubt that different conclusions were reached as to the meaning of the statute.

Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone the Lord Chancellor, said the Government was neutral, though hoped the House would give it a second reading. He wholeheartedly agreed that it was the growing prolixity and therefore the growing expense which was clogging up the courts.

On average throughout the country crown court cases were taking two hours longer than they did 10 years ago. This was serious.

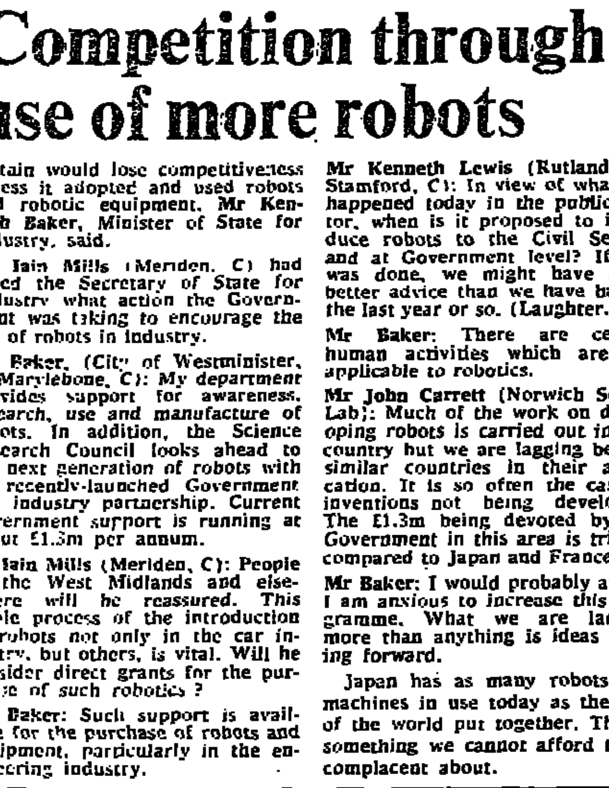
A growing robustness on the part of the bench in the first instance and greater robustness, conciseness, incisiveness and decisiveness on behalf of the profession in the conduct of cases was much to be desired and was the proper remedy for the growing length of cases both at first instance and on appeal.

The immense complexity of modern statute law which formed the staple diet of the courts was such that a statute could not be interpreted aright unless it could be placed in the correct legislative context in which it was passed.

An over-literalist approach was no longer the law and no longer corresponded to the actual practice of the Court of Appeal or the House of Lords or the best practice in the High Court.

Statute law interpretation had to go on in the county courts and magistrates' courts as well. This was where this Bill was of use.

The Bill was read a second time.



Meat content of sausages and hamburgers

Sir David Price (Eastleigh, C) asked if the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, was satisfied that current regulations ensured that the consumer knew the genuine meat content of sausages, hamburgers and beefburgers, respectively from the appropriate package labelling.

Mr Jerry Wiggin, Parliamentary Secretary, in a written reply, said: Regulations made under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, prescribe a minimum meat content for sausages and for canned hamburgers and beefburgers. We are considering a recommendation by the Food Standards Committee that the packaging of all meat product should bear a declaration of meat content.

Cost of US trip

Mrs Thatcher, the Prime Minister, in a written reply, said the cost to public funds of her recent visit to the United States was approximately £45,000.

Asked who was responsible for paying the cost of the visit of Mr Denis Thatcher, she wrote in reply: My husband was a guest of the United States Government.

Data protection

Mrs Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said in a written reply that the Government were not yet able to sign the Council of Europe convention on data protection but the Home Secretary (Mr Whitelaw) would shortly be maing a statement on the Government's policy on data protection.

Royal Wedding coin?

Mr Peter Rees, Minister of State, Treasury, said in a written reply: The question of the issue of a commemorative coin to mark the occasion of the wedding of the Prince of Wales is under consideration.

Procedure debate to proceed

European Parliament
Strasbourg

An independent Italian MP was accused o holding the Parliament to ransom by threatening to table a great many amendments to the voluminous report on the rules of procedure if it were not postponed from tomorrow until April.

Signor Marco Pannella (Italy, TCDG), moving postponement of the debate on the 160-page Luster report on procedure, said that he had only just received a copy although it was dated February 23.

He would put down many amendments to it unless it was postponed, if his motion was agreed to, he would not put down so many amendments.

Sir James Scott-Hopkins (Hereford and Worcester, ED), leader of the European Democratic group, said that Signor Pannella knew that putting down many amendments would cost a great deal of money.

It was even more intolerable for him to say that he would not put down so many if the debate was postponed, for that must mean that they were not important amendments.

Mr Allan Rogers, (South-East Wales, Soc) said that it was amazing that Signor Pannella, not having seen the report, could already decide how many amendments to put down. He understood that their cost to the Parliament could be £250,000.

Mr Richard Balfe (Inner London, South, Soc) said the issue should not be personalized around Signor Pannella. Even if officials were correct that the report had been released in all languages on February 26, they were being asked to debate it within 11 days.

Members would do well to reflect upon a report which contained major changes of rules. Parliament had worked well but its rules needed reform. However, that was not so urgent that it needed to be done this session.

The motion to defer debate to April was lost on a show of hands.

Labour tactics made Government guillotine Transport Bill

The Opposition's tactics in debating the Transport Bill in standing committee had made it necessary to bring in a timetable motion, Mr Francis Pym, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Leader of the House, said moving the Transport Bill (Allocation of Time) motion.

The Bill paves the way for the introduction of private capital into subsidiaries of the British Railways Board and into a reconstituted British Transport Docks Board. It abolishes the National Ports Council and reduces ministerial involvement in the affairs of the port industry. It establishes a new system of disqualification for repeated driving offences and amends the law on driving offences related to alcohol or drugs.

It also amends the law on licensing and testing of motor cyclists. It makes provision for altering the basis of calculation of vehicle excise duty on goods vehicles and removes certain restrictions on the fees which may be charged for taxi and taxi driver's licences.

Mr Pym (Cambridgeshire, C) said the Government had recognized that the Bill would have a difficult time in the House because of the controversiality of its issues, but had hoped to secure its passage without such a motion, which provided that the standing committee state would have to be competed by March 31, with the report stage and third reading in one day.

At the start of the session, the Leader of the Opposition indicated the Opposition's attitude clearly in the debate on the Queen's speech. He said they would fight the Bill all the way. This was an entirely legitimate approach and no-one complained about it or criticized it.

It was an approach which had been most effectively implemented by Labour MPs on standing committee, whose very fashiduousness and whose tactics had produced the need for the motion.

By the end of last Tuesday, the committee had had 17 sittings, a total of 55 hours, and dealt with amendments to only five pages and had over 70 pages still to go. At that rate of progress, the Bill would still be in committee well into 1982.

The time had come to ensure that the Bill made reasonable progress. Regrettably, the Government had had to bring the motion before the House.

It would be for the business committee to determine the number of committee sittings between now and March 31, but the Government hoped that the present four sittings a week could be retained. This would enable 13 sittings to take place to deal with the remaining 27 clauses and 10 schedules.

The Government believed the motion was essential if the committee was to consider all parts of the Bill and secure its passage. The Government had introduced the Bill before Christmas which gave it ample time for it to be considered fully and properly in committee.

The Government felt it had no alternative but to bring in this motion now. In the time that remained, the standing committee would be able to do justice to the Bill.

Mr John Silkin, Opposition spokesman on House of Commons affairs (Lewisham, Deptford, Lab), said at best the motion proved the Government's ineptitude in handling the House's business. At worst, it demonstrated cynicism on the Government's views on the Opposition's rights and privileges. He thought it a mixture of both. It violated the Opposition's inalienable rights.

The Government had a right to sufficient time to get legislation through but opposition had to have enough time to discuss legislation properly.

One part of the Bill, dealing with reform of motoring laws and road safety, was politically uncontroversial. If the Government felt that this part was in any danger, it could have left it out of the Bill and put in a separate measure. There would be plenty of legislative time.

Another main theme of the Bill, the introduction of private capital into state-owned industries, was controversial.

Mr Pym had said progress on the Bill had been slow but by last Thursday eight clauses had been disnosed of and over 108 decisions made. Of these amendments, 55 came from the Tory side.

With all the controversial ideological and doctrinaire things in the first part, the Bill should have been split in two.

Mr Roger Moate (Faversham, C) said he supported the motion because after 65 hours of debate, they had only reached page five of a 77 page Bill.

Mr David Ennals (Norwich, North, Lab) said that to give one day, even with the extension of three hours, for the report stage and third reading of a Bill was inadequate. There should be one day just for road safety.

No doubt there would be MPs on both sides of the House who would want to strengthen the Bill's drinking and driving provisions. The arguments for wearing seat belts were overwhelming.

No amount of voluntary pleading would be enough. No other country had managed to get a high rate of seat belt wearing until it had become part of the law.

The House favoured seat belt legislation and a new clause on seat belts would be tabled for report stage. It would be on an all-party basis.

It was a disgrace that the minister should come forward with this sort of truncation. What was most deeply to be resented about the Government motion was that only one day had been allotted for these major issues.

Mr Gary Waller (Brighouse and Spenborough, C) said that by their attitude the Opposition had made it inevitable that the part of the Bill on road safety would receive less attention than it should.

Mr Barry Sheerman (Huddersfield, East, Lab) said the Bill was concerned with the livelihood of people in several industries. They deserved a voice at the committee stage. Their future an dthe future of the transport industry should not go by default.

The Government ought to take away the responsibility for road safety from the Department of Transport and put it into the Department of Health. The way in which the Government had presented it in this Bill showed that they had the wrong attitude towards road safety.

MPs were going to neglect vital issues because of this motion.

Mr Frank Dobson (Camden, Holborn and St Pancras, South, Lab) said the Opposition had todiscover the Government's intentions and produce good, clear, workable laws for those who would have to operate them without having to resort to a lot of fancy, highly paid lawyers who would make a fortune because of lack of clarity.

Mr Albert Booth, chief Opposition spokesman on transport (Barrow in Furness, Lab) said they were discussing a drastic guillotine motion on a Bill which embraced a wide variety of subjects.

Controversy on some of the proposed measures ran across parties and throughout the country.

The guillotine was unnecessary and unreasonable. Bearing in mind the controversy over the first two parts of the Bill, the Opposition had shown remarkable restraint in not tabling wrecking amendments, but only ones which sought to improve the Bill.

Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Transport (Sutton Coldfeild, C) said it was an important Bill which introduced private capital into two major transport industries—the subsidiaries of British Rail and the British Transport Docks Board.

For British Rail the need was urgent. Over the last quarter of a century companies like the hotels had been starved of investment.

The Government was now taking action so that these businesses could develop with the opportunities that the private sector would give them.

The Government was taking the first major action on road safety for many years. It was acting on two of the greatest road safety problems—motor cycle safety and drink and driving.

If the tactics of the Opposition succeeded, these advances would be put at risk.

The motion was carried by 303 votes to 235—Government majority, 68.

Divorce and the matrimonial home

House of Lords

The Matrimonial Homes and Property Bill was technical, not very exciting but useful, Lord Simon of Glaisdale said when moving its second reading.

He said Part I of the Bill amended the Matrimonial Homes Act 1967 and sprung from a recommendation of the Law Commission. Part II sought to improve the machinery of the divorce court in dealing with matrimonial property after divorce.

The 1967 Act had dealt with the position where if a wife was deserted by her husband and he was the legal owner of the family home, he could sell it over her head and an order for possession could be obtained depriving the wife and children of the matrimonial home.

Not surprisingly after 13 years some minor technical defects had been found in the measure and Part I of the Bill sought to remedy them.

The 1967 Act did not cover the case where the husband was not the owner of the home but where there were trustees and the husband was entitled to possession as the beneficiary. The Bill sought to deal with the situation enabling the wife to stand in the shoes of trustees where the husband was the beneficiary and not the legal owner.

At present a divorce court could not directly order the sale of a matrimonial home, a move which was often necessary in order to do justice financially between the spouses

Courts could do it indirectly but the Law Commission had decided it would be more expeditious and less costly, if the courts were given powers of sale. This the Bill did.

Lord Scarman (Ind) said the Bill was an amending measure which contained no new principle. It sought only to strengthen the existing law which protected the various rights of the spouse.

Lord Gardiner said he supported the Bill. For the first seven years of the life of the Law Commission their reports were accepted and implemented within 12 to 18 months of being published. Now Parliament had, due partly to difficulties of parliamentary time, fallen into arrears and there were 10 to 12 reports which had not been implemented.

Lord Boston of Faversham (Lab), for the Opposition, said the proposals in the Bill would result in significant advances in family law, the rights of women, and fairness and justice as between husband and wife.

Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, the Lord Chancellor, said that this was a valuable and important contribution to family law. The Bill ought not to cause controversy.

The Bill was read a second time.

Parliamentary notices

House of Commons

Today at 2.30: Budget.

House of Lords

Today at 2.30: Wildlife and Countryside Bill, report (first day).

Windfall gas profits

The levy on purchases of gas proposed in the Gas Levy Bill, which was given a second reading, was not a means of raising gas prices, the Earl of Gowrie, Minister of State for Employment, said.

He said that last year the British Gas Corporation's pre-tax profits were £425m. Within a year or two they would rise to over £1,000m, unless Parliament approved the Bill, well in excess of the needs of their current capital investment programme.

The intention of the levy was to transfer that windfall amount from the corporation to the Exchequer for the benefit of the whole nation. There was a close parallel in intention with the North Sea oil taxation regime, which was designed to recover the windfall element from rising international oil prices from the producers for the benefit of taxpayers generally.

Lord Strabolgi, for the Opposition, said that he hoped tomorrow's Budget would bring more understanding and better news for hard-pressed energy users. They had a strong case.

The House of Commons Members' Fund and Parliamentary Pensions Bill was read a second time.

The Industry Bill passed its report stage.

The Town and Country Planning (Fees for Applications and Deemed Applications) Regulations and similar regulations for Scotland were agreed to.

House adjourned, 9.40 pm.

£100m expenditure on lightweight trains proposed to save 1,100 miles of country railways

By Michael Baily
Transport Correspondent

Proposals to save more than 1,000 miles of rural railway in England and Wales that might otherwise face closure over the next decade have been put to the Department of Transport by British Rail.

They call for expenditure of about £100m at 1980 prices in lightweight trains and low-cost infrastructure between 1984 and 1990 to give a new lease of life to lines in the West Country, Wales, East Anglia, the Midlands and North that lose nearly £50m a year and are deteriorating fast for lack of capital investment.

The plan is expected to win the support of Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Transport, who has declared his strong support for keeping rural railways open where possible, instead of replacing them with buses. It also requires the agreement of the rail unions to one-man trains and the loss of the jobs of several hundred signalmen, crossing-keepers and station men. The plan depends on the use of the new lightweight two-car diesel train with British Leyland bus bodies that has just successfully completed two months experimental service between Ipswich and Lowestoft and is about to go on trial in other parts of the country.

Carrying 102 passengers seated and 100 standing at up to 75 mph its cost is £200,000 to £250,000, about half that of a conventional unit, and British Rail wants about 250 sets for services over about 1,100 miles.

Lineside signalling systems would be replaced by radio controls, and manned crossings by the continental type of automatic barriers.

British Rail decline to say which routes would be chosen because that depends on other factors, notably track renewal; but the Central Transport Consultative Committee, the transport users' watchdog that has been pressing for light railways for some time, has prepared a list of suitable lines. They are:

North-east: Darlington-Bishop Auckland, Middlesbrough-Whitby, Newcastle-Consett, Newcastle-Ashington (the last two currently freight only);

North-west: Helsby-Rock Ferry, Preston-Colne, Preston-Ormskirk;

Yorkshire: Huddersfield-Sheffield, Huddersfield-Wakefield, Huddersfield-Clayton West, Leeds-Goole, Bradford-Keighley;

Midlands: Hereford-Worcester, Stourbridge St Johns-Stourbridge Town, Nottingham-Grantham, Boston-Skegness, Matlock-Sinfin, Leicester-Peterborough, Bletchley-Bedford;

Wales: Llandudno-Blaenau Ffestiniog, Wrexham-Bidston, Whitland-Pembroke Dock;

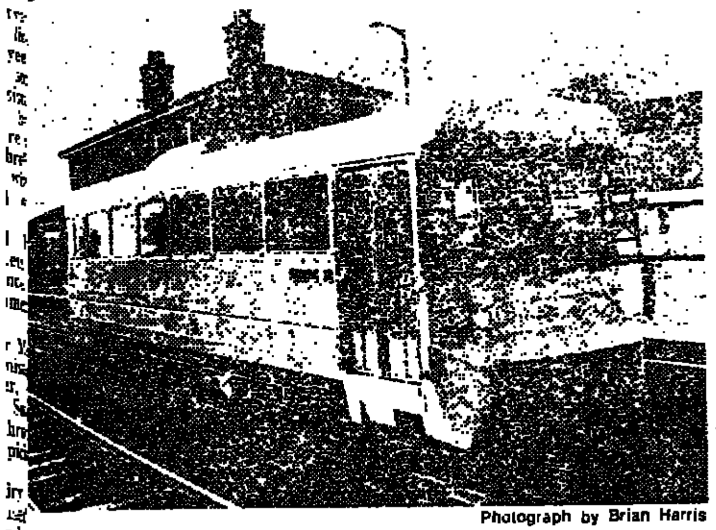
East Anglia: Ipswich-Cambridge, Ipswich-Felixstowe, Manningtree-Harwich, Norwich-Sheringham, Marks Tey-Sudbury;

South-west: Truro-Falmouth, Par-Newquay, Liskeard-Looe, Plymouth-Gunnerslake.

Scotland is considered generally unsuitable for lightweight trains.

British Rail said: "We have told the department that there are three choices for the rural railways: hold government funding as it is, in which case we shall have to start on closures very soon; keep the service as it is, in which case funding will need to rise quite steeply, with perhaps a doubling of the deficit by the end of the decade; or go down the line we want to take, of a low-cost railway in the second half of the decade."

The financial effect of the plan would be roughly to halve the deficit on those lines, enabling them to be kept open for at least another train life at a cost acceptable to the country.



Photograph by Brian Harris

The bus-bodied rail car during trials in Suffolk.

£4m research attack on 'deep' cancers

By Pearce Wright
Science Editor

A £4m research project has been launched into treating a group of cancers that kills about 145,000 people a year.

It marks an important step in combating deep-seated tumours by radiation, through a machine generating a beam of powerful neutrons.

The collaborative effort by the Medical Research Council, the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, the Cancer Research Campaign, and two Liverpool-based charities, the Cancer and Polio Research Fund, and the Clatterbridge Cancer Research Trust, was announced yesterday.

The work will be done at Clatterbridge hospital, Wirral, where a cyclotron will be built through a £3m grant from the imperial fund, and the research council, contributing running costs of £200,000 a year.

In addition, the Cancer Research Campaign is endowing a department at Liverpool University with £850,000 to investigate radiation treatment.

The main target at Clatterbridge is deep-seated tumours of the gastro intestinal tract (stomach, bowel, rectum, pancreas) for which there is no satisfactory treatment.

Smaller cyclotrons are in use, producing neutron beams of moderate penetrative power, to kill relatively superficial tumours in the neck and head.

The new machine is equipped with an isocentric head that steers the beam of powerful neutrons to the deep tumours.

The cyclotron should come into operation in about two years. The university research will examine more fundamental aspects of how cells, and particularly cancerous ones, are affected by different types of radiation.

The Prince of Wales and Lady Diana Spencer at Goldsmiths' Hall, City of London, for an evening of verse and music last night.

Mr Steel is critical of democrat ploy

By Michael Hatfield
Political Reporter

Mr David Steel, leader of the Liberal Party, last night stamped on suggestions that Liberals should cooperate with Social Democrats in the Greater London Council elections.

Mr Steel was responding to suggestions by Lord George-Brown and the Social Democratic Alliance, supporters of the Council for Social Democracy, that Liberals should back their campaign against left-wing candidates in the GLC elections.

The Liberal candidates were told in a letter by Mr Steel last night: "I have tried over and over again to convince the Social Democrats that we cannot proceed on any basis of carving up the map of Britain between us, and that because the Liberal Party is already established with its local democratic units, any electoral agreements will have to be negotiated bit by bit in each region and each constituency. There can be no short cuts arranged at the top."

The alliance announced last week that it planned to challenge noted left wingers such as Mr Ted Knight, Mr Kenneth Livingstone, Mrs Frances Morrell and Mr Tony Banks, and called for Liberal support in the campaign.

Although the Council for Social Democracy has stated it will not contest elections until it has been officially formed into a political party, the alliance sees itself in the vanguard.

Mr Steel, in his letter, said that he had emphasized the need for Liberals to secure first a national political agreement on policy priorities with the Social Democrats.

"As soon as the CSD has formed itself into a party I hope we will have some joint discussion and speedy negotiation to arrive at an agreed programme on national priorities."

Officer who shot girl denies being drunk

From Arthur Osman
Birmingham

A detective constable said at Birmingham Crown Court yesterday that he understood he had shot Miss Gail Kinchin but denied when questioned by Mr David Pagett, who is accused of her murder, that he had been drunk.

The court had heard from Det Constable Gerald Richards and Det Sergeant Thomas Sartain of the scene at a block of flats at Rubery, Birmingham.

In answer to Mr Justice Park, Constable Richards said he did not think Miss Kinchin had been there when he opened fire.

The prosecution has alleged that Mr Pagett, aged 31, of Deelands Road, Rubery, used Miss Kinchin as a shield to absorb return fire by police in a late night siege last June. Miss Kinchin, who was pregnant, was hit by three bullets and died a month later.

Mr Pagett has denied murdering her, three charges of attempted murder, taking away Miss Kinchin and her mother, illegally possessing the shotgun, and wounding.

In evidence Constable Richards said that he was with Sgt Sartain on the landing above a flat where the defendant was with the girl.

When the flat door opened he saw a woman standing with a man whose arm was round her neck

Mr Pagett started shouting to them to get down the stairs or he would kill them. He heard Miss Kinchin scream: "He is going to kill me."

The officer continued: "I was looking down the staircase and saw a shape go past the bottom of the stairs". The shape was moving quickly and he ordered: "Stand still. We are armed police".

As he shouted the shotgun was fired up the stairs at them. "I returned the fire. I fired four rounds.

"There was a slight delay and there was another blast of the shotgun. I returned the fire."

Mr Pagett asked him: "It was you, you were the chap who killed her?" The officer replied: "So I understand, yes."

He agreed he had aimed six times from 12 ft and did not know he had hit her.

Mr Pagett remarked: "You were not watching what you were aiming at. Were you drunk?"

Officer: "Most certainly not".

Mr Pagett: "I know you were, but I cannot prove it"

The hearing continues today.

Opposition group pledges repeal of nationality Bill

By Lucy Hodges

The Labour Party last night bound future Labour governments to repeal sections of the nationality Bill now going through Parliament, when its home policy committee approved an uncompromising statement on the issue.

The statement, which will go before the full national executive committee before it is put to the party conference this year, totally rejected the Bill. It said that nationality law should not give respectability to immigration law.

It is very different in tone from the green paper on nationality produced by the last Labour Government when Mr Merlyn Rees was Home Secretary.

Labour leadership issue

By Our Political Reporter

The prospect of the Labour Party starting its annual conference on a Sunday evening in Brighton to elect the leader and deputy leader was raised last night, much to the astonishment of Labour MPs.

The party's organization committee yesterday approved the suggestion, by six votes to four, on the ground that it wanted to get the issue out of the way before the conference proper began on the Monday.

While Mr Michael Foot, the party leader, is expected to be endorsed by the conference without an opponent, it is possible that Mr Denis Healey will be challenged for the deputy leadership by Mr Wedgwood Benn.

It was felt that the full national executive committee would later this month overturn the organization committee's recommendation, even though there was merit in settling the leadership quickly.

Court order against sit-in students

By a Staff Reporter

University College London yesterday obtained a court order to repossess administrative offices which have been occupied for the past two weeks by students protesting against the increase in overseas student fees.

Lord Annan, provost of the college, said yesterday: "We have great sympathy with the motives of the protestors but we have no power over the matter of overseas student's fees. We have to obey the Government."

Army to replace its veteran two-inch mortar

By Our Defence Correspondent

The two-inch mortar, which has been in use since the 1930s and holds the doubtful distinction of being the oldest infantry weapon in the British Army, is being replaced.

It will give way during the next three years to the new 51 mm model, which is being produced by the Royal Ordnance Factory at Nottingham. About 2,000 have been ordered.

The new mortar, which in length and weight (13lb) resembles the old one, will start coming into service early next year. It will have its own aiming sight.

Lords seek farming ban powers in moorland Bill

By John Young
Planning Reporter

The Government will come under strong pressure this week to accept an amendment to the Wildlife and Countryside Bill, which would give national park authorities powers to prevent the ploughing or afforestation of moorland.

The amendment is to be moved by Lady White at the Bill's report-stage in the House of Lords, and replaces a similar one which was narrowly lost in committee last month.

Concern at the continuing loss of moorland, and ineffectiveness of the authorities to prevent it, is given added weight by a joint memorandum from the Council for National Parks and the Council for the Protection of Rural England.

On Exmoor more than 13,800 acres of remote moorland, exceeding 20 per cent of the total area, has been ploughed up since the park was designated in 1954, the memorandum states.

On the North York Moors, more than 40,000 acres were lost to agriculture and forestry between 1950 and 1980, representing nearly a quarter of the entire park.

Irish and Welsh missionaries go quietly among the bullets in El Salvador guerrilla territory

From Michael Leapman
San Francisco de Gotera
March 9

Two Welsh nuns and three Irish monks do their missionary work in one of the most perilous areas of this warring country and have no intention of quitting.

"We have a job to do here", said Father Peter O'Neill, a 38-year-old member of the Franciscan order, who comes from Dublin and keeps his soft Irish accent. "We're a help to the people in some ways. While we can still be a help to the people we would like to stay."

Sitting opposite him on the patio of the priests' house, Sister Anselm Gunn, a tall and handsome woman of 52 from Swansea, nodded emphatically. She and Sister Jean Ryan from Port Talbot, who is 49, are of the Sisters of St Clair. They wear beige blouses and dark brown skirts with a brown headdress.

The town in which the five fulfil their mission is a hundred miles east of San Salvador, below the mountains south of the Honduras border, where the left-wing guerrillas are strong. From here, they minister to 80,000 people in a 400 sq. mile parish.

Despite the guerrilla war which flares irregularly in the countryside, the five visit the 10 towns of the parish once a week and the 52 villages once a month; but the monthly meetings they used to hold here for the lay leaders of the communities have been cancelled.

"A large group coming in from the countryside would cause suspicion", Father Peter said. "Four of our catechists (lay leaders) have been killed over the last year. One of our main difficulties is the suspicion in the army against lay leaders."

The Roman Catholic Church in El Salvador has been identified with the left, especially when it was led by Archbishop Oscar Romero, murdered by a right-wing gunman a year ago. In December three American nuns and a lay worker were shot by men believed to be connected with the security forces. Did that make the five nervous?

"More upset than nervous", Sister Anselm said. "We knew them well. The boys had thanksgiving dinner with them a few days before they were killed".

She added: "We're consistently through the years shown ourselves to be supporting the people, though not in a political way. They (the Army) obviously suspect us; but on the other hand they're probably a bit scared to come and do anything."

Father Peter said they had received third person threats, "so and so says he's going to get you"; but no direct threats. If asked to intercede in favour of people arrested by the military they do so and they will also drive people threatened by army patrols across the Honduras border to safety.

Sister Anselm is the oldest of the five. The youngest is Father Gerard Moore from Dublin, at 37. The other monk is Father Alfred O'Lochrainn from Limerick, who is 39 and has been in El Salvador for 12 years.

"We do find ourselves quite isolated here as regards information", Father Gerard said. "One of our best sources is journalists who come up here, and we listen to the BBC."

They are loth to comment on politics but it is clear where their sympathies lie. They do not accept the view often heard in the capital that the left has lost support since the failure of the January offensive and the increased American commitment to the junta.

Finding themselves amid all this fear and bloody conflict, are they sorry they came?

"Oh, no", Sister Anselm replied quickly. "Delighted. It's a great challenge."

Press threat: One of the American instructors at the centre of the controversy over aid to El Salvador said in San Salvador today that their greatest danger comes from the press.

Two of the 54 instructors here were presented to the press at the military airport under strict security rules including a ban on pictures. The men would not give their names or ranks.

The engineering instructor had served in Vietnam but found no real comparison between the two wars. He said the Salvadorean fighting men were superior to the South Vietnamese in "organization, discipline and motivation".

"The Salvadoreans' problem is not capability. It's equipment."

Mr Haig, left, with Herr Genscher at the State Department yesterday.

US interest in Soviet proposals

From David Cross
Washington, March 9

In his most positive statement on the subject so far, Mr Alexander Haig, Secretary of *State, said today that Washington was "very interested" in some aspects of the speech to the twenty-sixth Communist Party Congress by President Brezhnev.*

Mr Haig, who had just finished a round of talks here with Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister, disclosed that the United States had also received a copy of a letter sent by Mr Brezhnev to West European capitals, including Bonn, last week.

In his letter to Washington, the Soviet leader had reiterated the "essence" of the speech he gave last month, Mr Haig said.

He also said that one of the most interesting features of Mr Brezhnev's proposals to improve East-West relations was his suggestion that Nato and Warsaw Pact nations should announce details of military exercises between the Atlantic and the Urals as a confidence-building measure.

But Washington was "not particularly impressed" by Mr Brezhnev's proposal for a freeze on the deployment of theatre nuclear weapons in Europe.

Mr Haig said that the new Administration would continue to consult its allies about Mr Brezhnev's proposal for a summit conference as well as his other suggestions.

Herr Genscher told reporters after his talks with Mr Haig that he welcomed Washington's "general readiness" to negotiate in all fields and at all levels with the Soviet Union. He conceded, however, that any summit meeting between the two superpowers needed "very thorough" preparation.

As was only to be expected in their remarks to reporters, Herr Genscher emphasized on several occasions the importance Bonn attached to arms limitation talks with Moscow.

He also underlined Bonn's determination to support and help developing countries to safeguard their independence and autonomy. He carefully avoided any mention of El Salvador by name.

Mr Haig, on the other hand, went out of his way to say that he welcomed recent statements by West German Government leaders condemning outside intervention in the Central American republic.

Israel to open first law court in West Bank

From Christopher Walker
Jerusalem, March 9

A significant extension of Jewish influence in the occupied West Bank will take place next month with the establishment of the first Israeli civilian court allowed to operate in the area since it was seized in 1967.

The court at Kiryat Arba, the largest and most urbanized of the Jewish settlements will deal only with the 4,000 Jewish residents and will have no jurisdiction over the 60,000 Palestinians in the town of Hebron where the settlement is located.

Known in Hebrew terminology as a "municipal court" it will be similar to a British magistrates court, with powers both to fine and to imprison. All appeals will be through the normal Israeli legal system and be heard by judges at the district court in Jerusalem.

Although only one court is to be established immediately, it is understood the way is open for others to be set up in the main Jewish settlements. The move comes after angry protests from the settlers, who have repeatedly called on the Government of Mr Begin to extend all Israeli laws to the settlements.

Most of the work of the new court will be concerned with imposing council by-laws in such matters as taxation and licensing. The settlers at Kiryat Arba believe it will operate exactly as its counterparts inside Israel proper, but the military Government maintains it will conform with Jordanian law.

The military order sanctioning the opening of the new court was issued last week with little accompanying publicity or explanation. It came at the same time as other orders permitting the setting up of five Jewish local councils in the main West Bank settlements.

The settlements covered by the orders are Kiryat Arba, Ma'aleh Adumim, Elkana, Ariel and Ma'aleh Ephraim. Previously they belonged to a network of regional councils set up in 1979; but according to senior Israel official, the new independent councils will make it easier to develop the settlements into towns.

The extension of Israeli civilian processes to the settlements is regarded by Palestinian politicians as the most serious step in the "creeping annexation" which they have repeatedly claimed to be under way since the occupation began.

The new military orders come as the ruling Likhud coalition is deliberately accelerating its West Bank settlement programme in the run-up to the June general election.

Ironically, it also comes at a time when senior Israeli ministers are criticizing Egypt for refusing to resume the deadlocked talks on Palestinian autonomy in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Mrs Felicia Langer, a left wing Jewish lawyer who specializes in West Bank cases, said today: "This is a dangerous development which is in blatant contravention of the international law covering occupied territory."

Mr Elias Freij, the elected Palestinian Mayor of Bethlehem, said: "The sanctioning of the court and of the new local council is of the greatest political significance. As far as the settlements and the Arab land seized to build them is concerned, this is Israeli annexation by another name."

Atom power protests by Japanese

From Peter Hazelhurst
Tokyo, March 9

Japan's ambitious plans to build more nuclear power stations are encountering increasing resistance from protest movements.

The residents of Kubokawa town on Shikoku Island have voted out their mayor who had supported Government plans for a nuclear power station.

At present Japan obtains 15 million kilowatts of electric power from 21 nuclear stations and it is hoped to build another 14 plants by 1985. But construction work at most sites has come to a virtual standstill for the past 18 months since the accident at Three Mile Island

General indicted for rebellion in Spain

From Richard Wigg
Madrid, March 9

Lieutenant General Jaime Milans del Bosch, the former army commander in the Valencia region, has been indicted for military rebellion, the state news agency EFE, reported this evening.

General Milans, aged 65, ordered tanks into the streets of the region during the abortive coup last month. He is the first important figure to be indicted by General José María García Escudero, the Air Force judge appointed to investigate the ramifications of the failed coup.

Two other generals, including Lieutenant General Alfonso Armada, former deputy chief of the Army General Staff, are under arrest and being investigated, and a third has been relieved of his command.

General Milans was alone in declaring a state of emergency, a step which under the constitution only the civil authorities are empowered to take. He so worded his declaration, however, as to make it appear that he was acting pending receipt of orders from King Juan Carlos.

The general was finally persuaded to remove the tanks from the streets and was later flown to Madrid and arrested.

General Milans will be tried by the Supreme Council of Military Justice. He faces a maximum sentence of 30 years' imprisonment

Mr Ford delivers Reagan letter in Paris

From Charles Hargrove
Paris, March 9

Mr Gerald Ford, the former American President, who with his wife and son were entertained by President Giscard d'Estaing to luncheon today, said on leaving the Elysée Palace that in the event of a Soviet intervention in Poland, the American Administration would "do what it was necessary to do and would act in close consultation with France and with its Western partners."

Mr Ford handed over to the French President a letter from President Reagan, the contents of which were not disclosed.

Mr Ford's visit confirms the good start in relations between the French Government and the new Administration.

In Washington last month, M. Jean François-Poncet, the Foreign Minister, got confirmation of the impression made in Paris by the initial statements of President Reagan and Mr Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State, that they wished to build up with the countries of the European Community a relationship based on consultation and that they respected the independent position of the French Government.

The only areas of disagreement between the two countries are the Middle East and the expressed desire of the Reagan Administration to restore American military preponderance over the Russians. There is no enthusiasm in Paris for a multi-national peace-keeping force in the Gulf.

Gulf states draft rules for a new grouping

Muscat, March 9. — The foreign ministers of six Arab oil states agreed today on most details of a plan to bind their countries closer together in a Gulf cooperation council, Mr Qais al-Zawawi, Oman's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, announced.

He told reporters that the heads of state of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Oman and Bahrain would meet on May 26-27, probably in Abu Dhabi, to endorse the plan.

The council will be a framework for coordinating economic, political and security policies with the aim of welding the six into a community and safeguarding stability in the Gulf region.

The ministers are due to initial the council's constitution tomorrow after settling what Mr Zawawi called some minor financial and administrative points.

The council will consist of a supreme council of heads of state and another of ministers, both meeting regularly, backed by a secretariat in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Mr Zawawi said points agreed on today included voting arrangements for the councils but gave no details. He said the ministers agreed that the heads of state should meet twice a year and the ministers four times a year. he six might discuss names for the post of secretary-general of the new organization tomorrow.—Reuter.

Defence pact: Motivated by the events around them, such as the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan, the Iranian revolution and the Iraqi-Iranian war, the Arab states in the Gulf have agreed to cooperate in their efforts to maintain the stability of the region. A formal joint defence pact may be one of the ultimate objectives, but it is not likely to be a matter of urgent consideration, (Tewfik Mishlawi writes from Beirut).

Although the six Arab states are ruled by conservative, pro Western regimes, they are reluctant to be closely identified with the West, and even more reluctant to accept foreign military bases on their territories.

Gulf officials and their media have consistently advocated the security and stability of the region are the exclusive responsibility of the littoral states.

The Gulf states reacted strongly last week to a proposal by Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the British Prime Minister, for Western participation in a rapid deployment force to defend the area against Soviet threats.

Shaikh Muhammad Abdo Yamani, the Saudi Arabian Information Minister, said in a statement published in the Saudi newspaper *Al Madina* that his country "rejects tutelage" by anyone, and added that the Gulf states were "capable of defending themselves".

Significantly excluded from the Gulf Cooperation Council is Iraq, which is fighting Iran. Some Gulf officials have said Iraq supports the new Gulf institution, but is now too busy to become an active member.

Deal denounced: In a formal statement in Jerusalem after an extraordinary meeting, the Israeli cabinet today sharply denounced the proposed supply of American offensive weapons to Saudi Arabia and said it would disturb the strategic balance in the Middle East (Moshe Brilliant writes from Tel Aviv).

New attacks on independent trade unions highlight Moscow's concern

Rebuilding Poland's party is priority for Soviet Union

From Michael Binyon
Moscow, March 9

One of the issues at the heart of Soviet concern over events in Poland is the virtual disintegration of the Polish Communist Party. The Russians now regard the rebuilding of its shattered authority as an urgent priority in restoring things to normal there.

Since the Soviet party Congress there have been several indications of Moscow's concern, and the Russians are now reported to be pressing for the postponement, for at least a year, of the Polish party Congress, due to be held within the next three months.

The issue was almost certainly raised last week at the summit meeting in Moscow between President Brezhnev and his senior Politburo colleagues and Mr Stanislaw Kania, the Polish party leader, and his delegation.

A congress of the Polish party in its present state would be extremely dangerous in Moscow's view, coming at a time when it is split into factions and Mr Kania has not established full support for his policies. The result would be a genuine and probably heated debate whose outcome could not be foreseen.

In the Soviet view this is not the function of a congress, which is meant to be a prearranged, formal, unanimous endorsement of policies agreed on beforehand in private conclave. The spectacle of an open discussion with opposing factions adducing evidence in public for their viewpoints is not what the Russians understand as "Democratic centralism", and smacks too much of political pluralism.

The second danger is that such a congress would come at a time when the party has not yet reestablished its discredited authority over all sectors of Polish life, and resolutions passed might enshrine a diminished role for the party in the country. The Russians regard concessions made to Solidarity, the independent trade union, as tactical and do not want to see these endorsed at a time when Solidarity still wields considerable power.

Thirdly, members of the present Central Committee were elected before the present Polish troubles began last year, and many would almost certainly lose their seats to more liberal members. There is even talk in Warsaw of more than one candidate standing for the same seat, something unthinkable in Soviet practice where nomination ensures unopposed election.

Any mass defeat of hardliners, clearly identified with Moscow's views and the former Gierek regime, would be regarded as a humiliation by the Russians.

It was partly to forestall the election of a liberal majority in the Czechoslovak party Central Committee that the Russians invaded in 1968.

Meanwhile, the Soviet press has given important new ideological backing to the Soviet claim that independent trade unions are incompatible with a communist state modelled on orthodox Leninist lines. Over the weekend *Pravda* quoted Lenin telling a party congress in 1921 that all organizations, including trade unions, had to be subordinate to the Communist Party.

"The main role of trade unions is to be a school of communism, that is to help the party and to educate the masses in the communist spirit", an article quoted him saying in reply to his opponents' suggestions that the trade unions should run the country's economy while the party confined itself to the political sphere.

The article said the 1921 congress prevented "opportunist elements following purely demagogical aims" from removing the party from the control of the working class.

This is the second time that *Pravda* has quoted Lenin on trade unions, with clear though unstated reference to the situation in Poland. Last September, soon after the Gdansk agreement between the Polish party and striking workers that allowed the establishment of independent unions, the paper quoted Lenin, the theoretical justification for all Soviet policy, as saying trade unions could not exist outside the party.

Pravda yesterday also pointed out that it was during the March 1921 congress that "counter-revolutionaries" instigated a revolt against the party at the Kronstadt naval base under the slogan "Power to the Soviets but not to the party".

Drawing the parallel with Poland today where the Russians say counter-revolution threatens to engulf the country, it added: "This and similar slogans, designed to deceive the masses, are used by present-day anti-communists, attempting to undermine the foundations of the new system."

As a clear sign of approval, the Soviet press was quick this weekend to report the detention of four Polish dissidents, and said the "Confederation of independent Poland" to which they belonged was financed from abroad.

The Russians pressed Mr Kania for swift action against dissidents when he was in Moscow. But a Tass report on Saturday suggested Soviet anger that Solidarity had been able to stop the Polish authorities getting Mr Adam Michnik, a leading member of the KOR self-defence Committee, to report to the police.

The repercussions of the Polish crisis have long troubled Soviet intellectuals, who fear that any Soviet intervention would lead to an immediate clampdown within the Soviet Union. They argue that in view of the probable world reaction the internal effect would be far more drastic and severe than the tightening-up imposed after Soviet interventions in Czechoslovakia and Afghanistan.

Already Soviet publications have gone on the propaganda offensive to prepare party ideologists and political activists for any crisis.

Black nurse barred from treating white

From Ray Kennedy
Johannesburg, March 9

Mr David Neppe, a Johannesburg city councillor whose father-in-law died in hospital of a heart attack after officials had forbidden a black nursing sister to attend him, today challenged Mr Pieter Botha, the prime minister, to put his apartheid ideology before his health.

His father-in-law, Mr Joe Esrock, aged 73, died last night in the Johannesburg general hospital. Mr Neppe said he was asked to find a private nurse because of a staff shortage.

"I could not find a white nurse but three black nurses were available", he said.

Iranians told club-wielders trying to seize power

Tehran, March 9.—President Abolhassan Bani-Sadr, under heavy attack from his political enemies, called on the Iranian people today to smash attempts at establishing the rule of violence over the rule of law.

In a strongly worded statement in the newspaper he controls, the President accused his opponents of planning the violence, which left at least 45 people injured at a rally he addressed last Thursday.

"They want to establish the sovereignty of clubs over people at any cost. It is the duty of the people to resist with their full power and to smash the clubs, the club-wielders and their supporters", he declared.

Ayatollah Sadegh Khalkhali, the former head of revolutionary tribunals, said yesterday that the President should be put on trial on grounds of treason against constitutional law for ordering security forces to quell disturbances at the rally. Mr Muhammad Ali Rajai, the Prime Minister, accused Mr Bani-Sadr of trying to form a rival government.

But Mr Bani-Sadr replied today: "Those club-wielders were insulting the President and hence the nation for 45 minutes, but I did not show any reaction until they started throwing stones and pieces of iron. Then I asked the police to intervene, and when I realized they were unable to stop the chaos, I asked the *people to restore order.*"

The incident at the rally set off a chain of protests. Muslim extremist opponents of the *President tried to close the* Tehran bazaar yesterday, while minor demonstrations were reported in Qom, Isfahan, Rasht and other cities.

More serious incidents occurred in Lahijan, near the Caspian Sea, where left-wing radicals were reported to have tried to declare the town's independence from Tehran. A local newspaper reported calm today after four days of clashes and conflicts.—Reuter.

Islamabad would sanction force against hijackers

Continued from page 1

ded by the hijackers during their long flight from Kabul to Damascus.

Their list included: the immediate release of the family of Mr Salamullah Khan and the freeing of Mr Nasser Gama from Pakistani jails; the ending of the Pakistan Government's "propaganda campaign" against the Zulfikar organization; and the release of all Zulfikar members from prison.

The hijackers said that when the Pakistan Government agreed to the demands, they would present a specific list of names of those to be released and the destination to which they eventually wanted to be flown. There was no sign this evening, however, that any of the gunmen had asked for the aircraft to be refuelled.

A Syrian security officer went on board the aircraft this morning and soon afterwards food and drink were taken into the aircraft by ground staff. They later reported that the only woman hostage left had become hysterical after her seven-day ordeal on board; but

The hijackers' names are not known, although Pakistani authorities said they were "90 per cent certain" the leader was Salamullah Tippu, a graduate student at Karachi University, who, they said, is wanted for murder and is believed to be

In Islamabad it was also believed that Mr Bhutto's son Murtaza had helped to organize the hijack, had been in Kabul and was now on board the aircraft in Damascus. But Syrian officials denied that he was there.

That President Zia views the hijacking with grave misgivings is evident from his further arrests of Bhutto supporters in Pakistan and his appeal to President Reagan and President Brezhnev to intervene.

Solidarity leader hopeful of averting strike

Warsaw, March 9.—Mr Lech Walesa, leader of the Solidarity free trade union organization, emerged from talks with Mr Mieczyslaw Rakowski, the deputy Prime Minister, tonight and indicated that a way would be found to avert a threatened strike in the textile producing city of Lodz.

Mr Walesa said he would meet General Wojciech Jaruzelski, the Prime Minister, for the first time in Warsaw tomorrow evening. "We will discuss all outstanding problems."

He said local officials were talking in Lodz tonight in an attempt to avert a threatened one-hour stopage in protest against the refusal of the authorities to reinstate five workers dismissed from an Interior Ministry hospital.

Mr Walesa spent nearly three hours in talks with Mr Rakowski, a liberal journalist appointed by the Prime Minister to handle relations between the Government and solidarity. Afterwards he said: "I am satisfied.

General Jaruzelski took over as Prime Minister nearly four weeks ago. He called for a 90-day strike truce when he took office, but a series of local and national disputes have since emerged to threaten the fragile peace.—Reuter.

Mr Jacek Kuron, left, the KOR leader addressing Warsaw students; and Mr Adam Michnik, a KOR member,

Russia blames KOR leader for Polish crisis

By Richard Davy

The Russians do not believe in spontaneity. Behind every event they look for someone conspiring, organizing or pulling strings.

They seem to have decided that the Polish troubles can be blamed largely on Mr Jacek Kuron, one of the leaders of the Social Self-Defence Committee (KOR), whom they accuse of manipulating the new unions and being himself manipulated from the West. Last week he was officially warned that he might face serious charges.

The Russians are wrong because KOR is only one of many influences at work and is in any case not the personal property of Mr Kuron. Moreover, its influence has been largely on the side of realism and moderation.

It grew out of the Workers' Self-Defence Committee which brought together people of many different political persuasions to help workers persecuted after the strikes of 1976. When the workers were amnestied it changed its name and continued to function as a pressure group and source of information and ideas.

Some of its members, notably Mr Adam Michnik, who was to have received the same warning as Mr Kuron but was protected by workers, have propagated for some years the idea that the system can no longer be reformed from inside but has to be modified by organized pressure from workers and society as a whole.

Mr Kuron, who was born in 1934, has been active in political opposition since he was expelled from the party in 1964. He was then a lecturer

Together with Mr Karol Modzelewski, now a spokesman for Solidarity, the free trade union organization, he wrote an open letter to party members saying that the system had deviated from Marxism by handing power to a monopolistic party instead of to the working class.

He was sent to prison for three years. When he emerged he gradually broadened his left-wing views to find common ground with the church and other intellectuals.

UN chief regrets American move at sea law session

New York, March 9.—Dr Kurt Waldheim, secretary-general of the United Nations reopened the Law of the Sea Conference here today and voiced deep regret over the Reagan Administration's decision to delay completion of an international sea law treaty.

The decision, compounded by the dismissal of the top American negotiator, has provoked anger among Third World nations and raised fears in the state department and among United States allies. that the treaty might be jettisoned if the Administration insisted on reopening negotiations on deep-sea mining provisions of a draft treaty.

One official said the reaction to the American move among many of the delegations could be summed up in one word—dismay.

Dr Waldheim told delegates from more than 150 countries that he had expected negotiations to have been completed this session

He adjourned the meeting to give the 40-nation Asian group more time to nominate a new candidate for president in succession to Mr Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe of Sri Lanka.—AP.

Leading article, page 15

مكرر من الأصل

'M5 rapist' is jailed for life after admitting 16 offences

John Richard Gerald Lambe, known as the M5 rapist, who for three and a half years carried out a series of attacks on women in the West Country in a bizarre "challenge" to the police, was jailed for life by Bristol Crown Court yesterday.

A builder aged 37, of Queen's Gardens, Fordingbridge, Hampshire, he was given a life sentence on each of 12 counts of rape and concurrent six-year sentences on four charges of attempted rape. He admitted the offences.

The court was told that one reason for the attacks was Mr Lambe's burning sense of injustice at the police arising from his conviction in 1975 for aggravated burglary.

Mr Gilbert Gray, QC, for the defence, said Mr Lambe left a series of conflicting clues which he thought would convince police they were not dealing with just one person.

Mr Justice Bingham said Mr Lambe's victims were mostly unprotected women and girls who were attacked in their homes. He had no doubt that they were in real fear of suffocation or strangulation. Mr Lambe had not scrupled to use violence, striking blows and threatening to use a knife. Some victims were subjected to sexual humiliations, the judge said. "You showed in the course of those distressing episodes a callous disregard for the screams and entreaties of the victims, and condemned them on some occasions for not having locked their houses sufficiently to keep you out."

In a psychiatric report a doctor had said Mr Lambe's motivation was not entirely sexual but was "curious and bizarre", the judge said. He had wanted to challenge and humiliate the police.

Mr John Hampden Inskip, for the prosecution, said the offences were "very daring". Nine were committed while Mr Lambe was repairing property part-time in Bridgwater, which gave him an excuse to be away without telling his wife where he was.

"It was not easy to trace this man. On occasions he would buy clothes from Oxfam which he would dispose of immediately afterwards to make the task of trapping him more difficult."

The victims ranged from a girl aged 15 to a widow aged 74, the first victim, who was awakened in bed by a man with a torch who put his hands round her throat and started to rape her.

The widow was one of three victims so seriously affected by their experiences they were unable to continue living in their homes.

In the second attack a woman aged 28 had gone upstairs to bed while her husband and father watched television downstairs.

Later she thought her husband was in bed behind her, but soon realised it was not him. She got out of bed, the man tried to pull her back, she screamed and the man ran from the house.

Mr Hampden Inskip said: "This was so improbable a set of circumstances that police had the greatest difficulty in accepting it as truth initially."

Mr Gray told the court that Mrs Lambe had not known what her husband had done. She was a woman of principle and had declined large offers of money to tell her story.

The 12 rape charges were: At Weston-super-Mare on June 10, 1977, on August 16, 1977, and on February 23, 1979; at Lympsham, near Weston, on September 8, 1978; at Bridgend, Mid Glamorgan, on September 12, 1978; at Salisbury, on October 31, 1978; at Portishead, Avon, on November 28, 1978; at Taunton, Somerset, on December 11, 1978; at Backwell, Avon, on March 18, 1979; at Tatenhill, Worcestershire, on April 19 1979; at Exeter (two offences) on August 16 1979.

The four attempted rapes were at Weston-super-Mare on June 22, 1977; at Salisbury on February 3, 1978; at Dorchester on January 2, 1980; and at Taunton on October 27, 1980.

Tug captain challenges the courts

The jurisdiction of the English courts was challenged yesterday by lawyers representing the captain and crew of the tug involved in a Channel chase last Thursday.

Reporting restrictions were lifted when the seamen appeared before Lewes magistrates, East Sussex.

Along with the ship's company of eight there appeared two Lancashire men. All were remanded in custody until next Tuesday.

Mr John Harper, representing Antonius Adrianus Olijhoek, the captain, and two Dutch crew members, told the court that three sets of waters were involved: French, international and English.

It was not suggested, he said, that when the British customs officers boarded the tug it was in English waters, but it was his clients' contention that when the matter started and the captain was told to heave to he was then 18 to 20 miles from the French coast.

"The arrest or attempted arrest by the French officials was in fact in international waters", he said. "This may give rise to claims in the future if the French acted improperly. If, in fact, this ship was in international waters then got into British waters as a result of action taken by the combined efforts of French and British vessels.

"If, in fact, the ship was driven unwillingly into British waters and then followed an arrest, the jurisdiction of this court would not be effective".

Mr Harper added: "At no time did my clients act voluntarily.

Charged with the fraudulent evasion of the prohibition of the importation of cannabis resin were: Antonius Adrianus Olijhoek, aged 56; Christian Martinus Jansen, aged 27; Ernest Frederik Joustra, aged ; Antonius Bonaventura Van Putten, aged 33; Bertus Gerend Jante Kees Eman, aged ; Muhammad Abdul Nassar, aged 42; Abdul Salaam Likbal, aged 32; Robert David Morris, aged 30, a Canadian engineer, of no fixed address; Ronald Elton (Dawson), aged 33, of Middleton, Lancashire; Ernest Appleby, cafe proprietor, of Oldham, and Wilfred Duffy, aged 30, builder, of North Croft, Royton, Oldham.

In brief

Producers seek Equity talks

The producers of the West End variety show *That's Showbiz* are seeking a meeting with Equity, the actors' union, in an attempt to resolve the dispute over Sunday performances of the show before the matter reaches the High Court on Friday.

Despite the injunction obtained by the producers, Kendall-Lane Productions, last Thursday, the performance last Sunday failed to go ahead.

Nolan sister recovering

Anne Nolan, aged 29, former member of The Nolans singing group, was improving in hospital at Torquay yesterday after an emergency operation. Her first child was born two weeks prematurely on Sunday and is said to be doing well.

Fire deaths total 195

London firemen rescued 298 people last year and answered 103,615 emergency calls. But 173 adults, including one fireman, and 22 children died. There were 18,358 malicious false alarms.

Two-headed terrapin

A two-headed terrapin has been delivered to a pet shop in Westdale Lane, Carlton, Nottinghamshire. "Each head eats separately and sleeps separately", Mr Peter Godfrey, the owner, said.

Youth theatre tour

The National Youth Theatre, despite losing its Arts Council grant, is to make a five-week tour of Europe this autumn, performing Shakespeare's *Richard II* and Peter Terson's *Good Lads at Heart*.

Crash victim dies

Mr Philip Castle, aged 20, of Riccall, North Yorkshire, who was injured when his car was struck by an express train at Barlby, near York, last Friday, has died in hospital.

Chief constable ill

Mr James Fryer, aged 54, Chief Constable of Derbyshire, is recovering in hospital after suffering a heart attack at the weekend. He was said to be comfortable yesterday.

Photograph by Keith Waldegrave

Vauxhall Manor School, London, has in its classes (from the left) Cypriot, Jamaican, Anglo-Indian and Guyanese pupils.

Concern for minorities in multiracial schools

By Diana Geddes
Education Correspondent

Concern about the lack of suitable provision for white children in multiracial schools and for coloured children in predominantly white schools is expressed in a report published by the Schools Council yesterday.

The report gives the results of the first large-scale investigation of local education authorities' and schools' policies and practices in multi-ethnic education in the past 10 years. The study was carried out by Professor Alan Little and Dr Richard Willey of Goldsmiths' College, London.

More than half the head teachers involved in the survey in schools with a third or more pupils from ethnic minorities drew attention to the special needs of their white pupils, many emphasizing that those needs tended to be ignored.

The report quotes one headmaster as saying, for example: "We have to be careful that [ethnic minority] children with language problems who are not truly remedial do not swamp the remedial teachers who should be coping with true remedial problems."

Three quarters of schools surveyed said that in-service courses for teachers on multi-ethnic education should cover the needs of white children in multiracial schools, and more than half considered that present in-service courses did not do so.

The survey showed that there have been significant developments in multi-ethnic education over the past decade, particularly in the widespread acceptance in multiracial areas of the need to make special arrangements for ethnic minorities. However, the size of the response was still wholly out of proportion to the magnitude of the task.

In practice, actual provision was largely restricted to meeting the basic language requirements of children whose mother tongue was not English, the report says. There had been notably little advance in assessing and meeting the needs of West Indian children, or of providing more advanced English language courses.

The report identifies an important change in central government policy over the past 20 years, away from the view that immigrant pupils would somehow be assimilated into the system without the introduction of any special measures, to a recognition that Britain had become a multi-ethnic society and that that fact had implications for all schools, whether or not they had any pupils from ethnic minorities.

In authorities with a high proportion of coloured pupils, emphasis in curriculum development had shifted from the insertion of special additions into the timetable such as "black studies", to an attempt to introduce a multi-ethnic dimensions to all subjects. But little was being done in largely all-white areas.

Half of the head teachers in schools with a high concentration of ethnic minority pupils complained that public examination requirements restricted their ability to develop a curriculum which reflected a multi-ethnic society.

The report calls for a clear policy statement from central Government on education for a multi-ethnic society; identification and dissemination of good practice; provision of resources for in-service training and curriculum development; and encouragement for ethnic minorities to participate in education.

Multi-ethnic education: the way forward, by Alan Little and Richard Willey. Schools Council pamphlet 18. (Schools Council, 160 Great Portland Street, London W1N 6LL.)

Whitehall brief: How a 1949 crisis escaped press coverage

Beyond the public eye, an abyss

By Peter Hennessy

Any specialist journalist worth his salt is faintly obsessional about the amount of information he misses, week in, week out in the course of treading his beat. For the Whitehall watcher it takes the form of brooding over what is going on in all those secret Cabinet committees, the rarely penetrated hidden heart of the Government where so much high policy is shaped, away from the eyes of Parliament and the public.

An invitation to address the annual dinner of the Leicester University history society on the subject of "newspapers and history" is calculated to bring on a severe attack of the "how much have I failed to discover" syndrome. The late Mr Philip Graham is behind it all with the famous standard he set for the magazine *Newsweek*, which, he said, must strive to be "the first rough draft of history".

As the Prime Minister is unlikely to entertain a request under the Croham directive on open government for last week's briefs and minutes prepared by the Cabinet Office secretariat, the only way of illustrating the point was to carry out a "what the papers never said" exercise on a period for which both the quality press and the Cabinet papers are available.

In June 1949 the Attlee government, like so many since, was faced with unpalatable truths about the condition of the economy and the need for drastic remedies, among them devaluation of the pound, a course into which it was forced three months later. Again, like more recent Cabinets, its first instinct was to run away, then it tried to throw palliatives at the mounting crisis before finally succumbing to the inevitable.

The three weeks from Monday, June 13, to Monday, July 4, represent phase one, the panic stage. The epicentre of the tremor shaking the Government was the Cabinet's Economic Policy Committee, known as EPC. On the way out from its meeting on June 15, Clement Attlee turned to Hugh Dalton and said "1931 all over again", raising the spectre of the currency crisis that brought down the MacDonald administration and split Labour for a decade.

The press, which can be read at the British Library's newspaper section at Colindale, reported a series of ministerial speeches on the dollar shortage and the need for more exports. The "City Notes" of *The Times* even discussed devaluation as one of a number of choices. The man who came closest to sensing the desperation inside EPC was Brendan Bracken, the Conservative MP and proprietor of the *Financial Times* who, in a political speech in Dumbarton on Saturday, June 18, said: "Devaluation might be forced on us as a consequence of Sir Stafford Cripps [Chancellor of the Exchequer]. It was no policy for this Rechabite and uncarnivorous Micawber to say that his mind was crystal clear when hoping that something would turn up".

On July 1, EPC met morning and afternoon in Atlee's room at the Commons. The Treasury paper presented by Cripps as the basis for discussion made it clear that a deepening recession in the United States was making a desperate British economic outlook worse; and the Cabinet had three options: 1, carrying on with the present policy of trying to raise productivity, sustaining food subsidies and "a very high standard of social services"; 2, A severe deflation which would reduce prices and raise unemployment; 3, devaluation of sterling to make British exports more competitive.

Ministers stared into the abyss and resolved nothing. Even Treasury minutes, available at the Public Record Office in Kew, make it clear the meeting was a watershed occasion.

Newsmen knew of the existence of EPC. The *Financial Times* even mentioned it by name on June 28. *The Daily Telegraph* and *The Times* reported on July 2 that it had met the day before, which suggests that the lobby correspondents had been briefed up to a point by the No 10 press office. But the line put out on June 27 to the lobby, and not questioned subsequently by any journalist was, in the words of the *Manchester Guardian* political correspondent (and imitated almost verbatim in the other qualities) that "the Chancellor already has the full backing for the policy he is pursuing and there is no sign of any change at the moment".

Two days later EPC waent into its agonized marathon session.

The gap between what was going on and what the press said was happening is, in many instances, narrower now than in 1949. Our private system of government has become slightly more public thanks to "moles" and more systematic specialist journalism. Ironically, the day before the "crunch" meeting of EPC, the papers reported the findings of the Royal Commission on the Press which went to the heart of the matter.

"The evidence put before us does not suggest that up to now any harmful influence is being exerted on the press through the medium of the government information services; but if newspapers get out of the habit of finding their own news, and into the habit of taking all or most of it unquestioningly from a government department, they are obviously in some danger of falling into totalitarian paths."

Lord Kagan to appeal on sentence

Lord Kagan, aged 65, jailed for 10 months last December on theft and false accounting charges, is to seek leave on Friday to appeal against his sentence.

The application by the Lithuanian-born businessman, who founded the Gannex textile group after he arrived in England in 1946, will be heard by Lord Lane, the Lord Chief Justice, and two other judges in the Court of Appeal in London.

Lord Kagan, who was also disqualified from company directorship for three years by Mr Justice Smith at Leeds Crown Court on December 12, will not be brought to London from Rudgate prison, Wetherby, West Yorkshire, where he is serving his sentence.

He had pleaded guilty to stealing drums of indigo dye from his company, Kagan Textiles Ltd, and falsifying accounts. A £105,000 fine also imposed at the crown court was later reduced by Mr Justice Smith to £56,000.

The judges will also hear an application by Cellofoam (Yorkshire) Ltd, against its £375,000 fine for conspiracy to defraud.

Lord Kagan's son, Michael, aged 30, and wife, Lady Kagan, aged 56, were acquitted of all charges by direction of the judge. Also acquitted was Raymond Kennedy, aged 54, and Tbolya Ginsburg, aged 55.

Lord Kagan has homes in Fixby Road, Huddersfield, and at Barkisland, near Halifax.

Two saved after 16 hours adrift

A couple who spent over 16 hours bailing out their damaged sailing dinghy were towed safely into Lochboisdale, in South Uist, Outer Hebrides yesterday morning by the fishing boat Annie Maria.

Mr Donald MacPhee, aged 24, a boat builder, and Nurse Anne MacDonald, aged 24, both of South Uist, were twice nearly run down by cargo boats

Fratricide charge

Raymond Parker, aged 18, steelworker, of Lakeland View, Workington, Cumbria, was charged at Workington yesterday with the murder of his brother, David Parker, aged 22. He was remanded in custody until March 18.

Fight to win a stamp for Mumbles

Regional report
Tim Jones
Swansea

Long before Mr William Husson, the member for Liverpool, was ungracious enough to ruin the opening of the Liverpool and Manchester Railway by stepping in front of the Rocket, becoming the first passenger to be killed in a railway accident, the Swansea and Mumbles Railway had been peacefully pursuing its business. In fact, it had been going for 23 years.

It was no surprise, therefore, that historians, parliamentarians, and the Post Office Users' Council for Wales responded with indignation when *last year* the Post Office issued a stamp commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Liverpool line, proclaiming it as "the world's first regular passenger-carrying railway".

Since then the Post Office has published apologies in specialist philatelic publications but the council is pressing for a public apology to redress what it considers as "a gross injustice to the people of Wales".

Mr Cliff Taylor, the chairman of the council's stamp committee, said: "What is particularly annoying is that we had informed the Post Office in 1978 of its *mistake but it chose* to ignore the facts. Since then we have been pressing it to issue a stamp next year commemorating the 175th anniversary of the Mumbles line, but the Post Office has refused to consider this."

The Mumbles Railway was incorporated by Act of Parliament in 1804 and began carrying passengers on the seven mile route from Swansea on March 25, 1807.

Originally, the coach was pulled along the tracks by a horse but it was to have six other means of propulsion, including sail, before it was closed 20 years ago.

In its correction published in January in the *Stanley Gibbons Monthly* the Post Office said that the Liverpool and Manchester Railway stamp "should have been more precisely described as the world's first steam-powered regular passenger and mail-carrying railway".

Mr Ronald Dearing, Post Office chairman, explained why his organization would not issue a stamp to commemorate the Mumbles line. "We do not usually mark anniversaries which are not in multiples of 50 years, except for royal occasions."

Far from being over, the fight to have a commemorative stamp next year is growing.

Owners of former Coral casino lose licence plea

A crown court judge yesterday dismissed appeals by three London casinos against the cancellation of their gaming licences.

Licences for the International Sporting Club, the Palm Beach Club and the Curzon House Club, all in the West End of London, were cancelled last year after revelations of gaming irregularities.

All three were then owned by the Coral leisure group but had since been sold to different companies, Knightsbridge Crown Court was told during a three-week hearing.

But Judge Gordon Friend told the three new owners, Aspinalls, Lonrho and Mecca that Coral's misconduct could not be ignored.

Undisclosed costs were awarded against the three appellants.

Pyke case delays embassy rebuilding

By Stewart Tendler

Work on rebuilding the Iranian Embassy, damaged at the end of the siege last year, is being delayed by the continued imprisonment of Mr Andrew Pyke, the British businessman, in Iran.

The embassy building in Prince's Gate, Kensington, was badly damaged last May when the six-day siege was lifted by men from the Special Air Service Regiment. The building is little more than a shell.

Iran has been seeking some contribution to the rebuilding from Britain but in recent discussions the Home Office has made it clear that no decision will be made while Mr Pyke remains a prisoner.

Rebuilding, it is estimated, wil cost between £1m and £2m. The only work being undertaken at present is clearance of rubbish and efforts to make the building safe and weatherproof. That is costing the Iranians nearly £100,000.

OVERSEAS

Foster father watches sex murderer die in electric chair

Michigan City, Indiana, March 9—Steven Judy, insisting that he wanted to die and showing no remorse for killing a young mother and drowning her three children, was electrocuted early today.

The warden of Indiana State Prison ordered the switch to be pulled that sent 2,300 volts of electricity through the condemned man, who was strapped and clamped in the chair. He was pronounced dead at 11 minutes after midnight.

Mr Judy, aged 24, who said he would rather die than spend his life in prison, was the fourth man executed in the United States since a 10-year moratorium on capital punishment ended with Gary Gilmore's death before a Utah firing squad in January 1977.

His execution left 731 persons on death rows in American prisons. About 100 opponents and 200 supporters of capital punishment demonstrated last night outside the penitentiary on the shores of Lake Michigan.

Mr Judy, who had been moved to a special cell 13 steps from the electric chair, told prison officials that he was "calm and stable" as his death approached.

He was reported, however, to have broken down and cried when he was visited by his foster parents and their three teenaged children. His foster father was present at the execution at his request.

His last words were to prison officers. "I don't hold no grudges," he said. "This is my doing—sorry it happened."

It was in late April, 1979, when Mr Judy faked a car breakdown in Michigan City and asked for help from a passer-by, Mrs Terry Chasteen, a 24-year-old divorcee.

When she stopped he bundled her into the car with her three children, aged five, four and two, and drove them to a lonely lane 10 miles outside the city.

There he raped the woman, then strangled her and drowned the children in a half-frozen pond. He was arrested the next day.

He warned the jury at his trial: "You better vote for the death penalty because if you don't I will get out and it may be one of you next, or your family . . . That goes for you too, judge."

Hours before his execution, he said of what he had done: "I don't lose sleep over it, it's just something that happened. I'm not sorry for the things I've done. I've lived the only way I know how."

The death row population is increasing steadily, mainly in the southern states.

Thirty-three states have the death penalty. Of those, 15 use the electric chair, nine have the gas chamber, four use hanging, four administer lethal injections, while Utah uses a firing squad.

Florida has the biggest death-row population—155 men and one woman. Texas is second, with 153 men and two women, followed by Georgia, California, Oklahoma, Alabama, Arizona and Illinois.

Actual executions are rare. Until today, Gary Gilmore, Jesse Bishop and John Spenkelink were the only men to be executed in the United States since 1967. Among them, Spenkelink alone fought to avoid execution.—UPI, Agence France-Presse and AP.

Hangman kept busy in Malaysia jails

From M. G. G. Pillai
Kuala Lumpur, March 9

Malaysia has executed nine young men in the past fortnight under a controversial law that restricts the rights of the accused as Malaysian lawyers, arguing that the death penalty is no deterrent to violent crimes, urged the Government to reprieve them.

But the Government's position is clear. Capital punishment will remain on the books and will be carried out should the Pardons Board reject the final automatic clemency appeal.

Malaysia resumed executions after more than a decade in March last year, and 20 men have been hanged since. Of the 50 now awaiting execution, 11 have exhausted their legal appeals and have one final hope in the Pardons Board. But it rarely interferes and legal sources say only that five death sentences have been commuted in the past two years.

Malaysia already has the dubious distinction of being among the countries which have the most number of offences carrying the death penalty.

What worries lawyers here is that it is often the luck of the draw (or a compassionate public prosecutor) that decides whether their convicted clients go to jail or the gallows.

The law under which most of them are condemned is the Internal Security Act, enacted initially to deal with those involved in the banned Malayan Communist Party but since amended to include others only vaguely connected with national security.

This law does away with the common law burden of proof beyond a reasonable doubt in criminal cases, imposing in its place the civil law balance of probabilities.

It also shifts the burden of proof from the prosecution to the accused. The Government argues that there is nothing unusual in this since this is already so under French law. But, as lawyers point out, in France a magistrate, not the police, conducts investigations.

The Act also allows prosecution witnesses to remain hooded and their identities protected while applying the doctrine of strict liability. It is enough for the prosecution to prove that the gun was in your car, even if you did not know about it, to earn you the death sentence.

Under the Act the accused cannot plead mitigating circumstances and the death penalty is mandatory. Of the 20 hanged since March last year, five were communists, one a drug trafficker, one a murderer and the rest common criminals.

Sometimes, the law can cause injustices. A 12-year-old schoolboy got the death sentence in 1977 for having a pistol in a plastic bag which he said was given to him to be given to someone else. He was reprieved and is now at an approved school.

No action was taken in another case, however, when the 12-year-old son of a Malaysian Cabinet Minister shot dead a neighbour's son with a pistol.

A man with an unlicensed gun can be charged under any of three laws, but the public prosecutor tends to favour the Internal Security Act because the work for him is made considerably easier.

Other offences which provide for the death penalty include drug trafficking, murder, armed robbery with violence and those rarely encountered like mutiny and treason. In some of these cases, a lesser penalty often means a mandatory whipping and a life sentence means life in prison for one's natural life.

In at least one case a man acquitted of a lesser charge was retried for the same offence under the Internal Security Act and condemned.

But after imposing the sentences, legal sources say, the authorities then become squeamish about any publicity surrounding the executions.

When local newspapers did highlight the executions, they were ordered to tone down their coverage. Official sources say this is because most of those condemned were Chinese—only one of the 20 hanged was a non-Chinese—and this could create political problems.

Sea hunt for 21 under way again

Hamilton, Bermuda, March 9.—The search for 21 missing crew from the sunken Israeli cargo ship Mezada resumed at dawn today with Navy and coastguard aircraft sweeping an area south-east of Bermuda.

The search was suspended during the night for fear of rescue boats hitting survivors clinging to lifeboats and debris in 24ft waves and 60mph winds. Three crew are dead and 11 others have been rescued.—UPI.

Largest diamond sold for $12m

Abu Dhabi, March 9.—The world's largest diamond, the 170-carat L'Etoile de la Paix (the Star of Peace) has been sold for $12m (about £5.5m). Mrs Salee-Amina Muhammad, the financial adviser who arranged the sale, said here today that it was sold by Mr Manfredo Horowitz, its Swiss owner.

The diamond weighed more than 500 carats when it was discovered five years ago in central Africa.—Agence France-

Thai hint of armed forces' intervention in crisis

From Neil Kelly
Bangkok, March 9

Five days after half his Cabinet resigned, General Prem Tinsulanonda, the Thai Prime Minister, is still trying to form a new government. In the meantime caretaker ministers are in charge of some of the most important ministries.

General Prem had a special audience of the King and Queen today to discuss the political impasse with them; but no early settlement of the crisis, which began with a dispute over oil supplies three weeks ago, is in sight.

Excessive demands for Cabinet places by one of the big political parties have obstructed General Prem's efforts to form a new coalition, according to Dr Trirong Suwankhiri, one of the Prime Minister's advisers.

He gave the first hint of possible military intervention when he said: "If political parties cannot serve the people's interests that is the end. We may have to dissolve Parliament and if some parties still present obstacles we may need to resort to violence." He said that line of thinking was supported by several "senior military men".

Because the upper house of the National Assembly is appointed and has many military officers as members, General Prem can count on the continuing support of Parliament as a whole; but he also is anxious to be seen to have the support of the elected lower house.

SPORT

Football

A friendly wink towards Tottenham

By Norman Fox
Football Correspondent

The draw for the semi-final round of the FA Cup, involving seven first division clubs, should encourage Tottenham Hotspur's belief that they are destined for Wembley and convince Everton that the road to north London is steeper for some.

The more striking of the two semi-finals on April 11 is that between the winners of the replays between Everton and Manchester City, and Ipswich Town and Nottingham Forest, which in any of its guises presents a meaty occasion.

Everton have already taken out Arsenal, Liverpool and Southampton but found that resolution and strength did not impress the refreshed Manchester City team in the sixth round on Saturday. They replay at Maine Road tomorrow and by then may know whether their next opponents are Ipswich or Forest who replay tonight at Portman Road. Either way, if Everton reach the last four they will have another demanding game.

Tottenham, having disposed of Exeter City to become the first certain semi-finalists, have been favoured with matches in London throughout and although the venue of the semi-finals will not be known until after the replays, the feeling that luck is giving them a friendly wink continued when they avoided Ipswich, the one team they had no wish to cross at this stage.

Although Spurs are the favourites, Ipswich's pursuit of the "double" is a powerful incentive. Glenn Hoddle admitted that the draw suited Tottenham. He said: "Our only concern was to keep away from Ipswich. We have no preference for Wolves or Middlesbrough." He saw nothing in the future in looking to past results of matches between Spurs and their prospective opponents.

For the record, however, they beat Middlesbrough 3—2 at White Hart Lane in October but lost 4—1 at Ayresome Park in December. Their last league game against Wolves ended in a 2—2 draw on home ground. Curiously, Wolves were to have met Spurs in the league on the day of the semi-finals.

With home advantage, Manchester City, Ipswich and Wolves are favoured to win the replays, but none of the games is likely to be won by a convincing margin. Forest, having given Ipswich a two-goal lead, recovered to go 3—2 ahead and finally having drawn 3—3 at the City ground, are determined to appear in their first FA Cup final under the guidance of Brian Clough. With their young midfield players prepared to stop Muhren and Thijssen from taking charge, the tie could still be decided by the sudden acceleration of Francis or the power of Wark's shooting.

Yesterday Ipswich were working on injuries to Muhren and Gates, who were hurt on Saturday but played on. These worries and the recurrence of Beattie's knee trouble were probably in the mind of the manager, Bobby Robson, when he asked Mr Clough if the game could be held on Wednesday. Forest are without Anderson, who dislocated his shoulder, so Needham is recalled to the centre of defence with Gunn moving to full back.

Fixture congestion and the struggle to raise a team of full strength stressed the difficulties that Ipswich will have to endure if they are to win the domestic "double" and the Uefa Cup. Even Liverpool, with their remarkable durability, have sometimes found the demands of Europe and home competition too severe, and although Ipswich have been playing enchanting football they may not have Liverpool's stamina.

Nevertheless, neutral observers would relish the prospect of a final between the cosmopolitan teams of Ipswich and Tottenham with a midfield feast involving Ardiles, Hoddle, Muhren and Thijssen and the finishing potency of Mariner, Wark, Crooks and Archibald.

Ipswich and Villa have been unable to agree when to play the important league match that should have been held at Villa Park tomorrow. The Football League have been asked to intervene but they too will have difficulties. Free dates are rapidly being filled, with Villa Park a possible site of a semi-final or replays and international matches adding to the complications.

Ipswich are concerned that Muhren will be away on World Cup duty for the Netherlands twice in the next two months and there is a chance that the season's decisive first division game will be held after the Cup final, which is on May 9.

Middlesbrough will have Armstrong in their team for tonight's replay at Molineux, despite a leg wound that on Saturday required 18 stitches. Wolves also hope to have an unchanged team as Gray, Richards and Hibbitt have overcome injuries.

FA Cup semi-final round draw

Everton or Manchester City v Nottingham Forest or Ipswich Town. Tottenham Hotspur v Middlesbrough or Wolverhampton Wanderers.

Cricket

Barbadian strokes in restricted supply

From John Woodcock
Cricket Correspondent
Bridgetown, March 9

Come to Barbados and enjoy the stroke-play is what they say, though there was little enough of it here today. With just under an hour left Barbados were all out for 334, which gave them a first innings lead of 36. At close of play England in their second innings were 31 for no wicket. The match ends tomorrow, a draw almost certain.

As on Sunday, the best of the England bowling came from Emburey (49.4—13—92—5) and Jackman (25—6—68—4). Of the other three Willey was the tidiest. The fielding was keen, with Butcher, supported by his family, excelling. On a hot day Emburey wheeled away, taking little out of himself and varying line and flight to the manner born. Jackman's was a more remarkable physical effort. On his first outing since he arrived nearly three eventful weeks ago he kept at it, putting all he had into his bowling.

Jackman has been at it long enough now, not only in England, to know where to bowl and to bowl where he wants to. On this form he could well win a Test place on Friday, ahead of Old and Stevenson. Nothing has happened here so far to make his original omission less unaccountable.

George Reifer, who was making a lot of runs for the young West Indian XI against England's young cricketers this time last year, showed uncommon patience for someone of 19, playing in only his third first-class match; although he has the stamp of a strokemaker, against Emburey he settled for simply scotching the spin. They spend most of their time playing against fast bowling in Barbados, that being the current craze.

Emburey could turn the ball, albeit slowly, and the bounce was variable. Even so, for Collis King, the embodiment of Barbadian cricket, to have taken two and a half hours to make 30 when lunch came, and to have played hardly a stroke of any kind, was symptomatic of an attitude which seemed to say that if England batted unadventurously, then so would Barbados. When the new ball was taken, Barbados had occupied 65 overs going from 83, the score at which Haynes was out, to 215 for three. Emburey by then had bowled 37 overs for 57 runs, 11 of these off his last over.

The reappearance of Botham and Stevenson soon got the scoreboard moving. Having just pulled Emburey's only long hop for six, King played for half an hour as nature intended. I am beginning to despair that Botham will ever again be the bowler he was before his back cracked up last summer; there is no fire coming from his nostrils any more. With Stevenson's length as elusive as his direction, and his pace no more than medium, the first seven overs with the new ball had brought 43 runs—as against 50 off nine at the start of the innings—when King was leg before to Botham.

The Reifers, the first brothers to play for Barbados since the Atkinson's 25 years ago, survived the mother and father of a muddle between wickets before George, having batted for nearly five hours, was well caught at extra cover by Gower off Jackman. Of England's three faster bowlers Jackman was made the most accurate, and in his next over he had Leslie Reifer leg before.

Emburey had bowled 26 overs today, well but with no luck, when immediately after tea he was helped by Butcher to take two wickets in two balls. Murray, going down the pitch, might have been stumped, had Butcher not held, off short mid wicket, a straightforward catch; the catch which Butcher then held when Padmore struck his first ball to a great height in the direction of long-on was as good, of its kind, as I have seen. The hit was hideously steep and Butcher had a long way to go for it, running away from the wicket and with Gatting in fairly close attendance.

After Marshall had denied Emburey a hat-trick, Clarke was bowled in the next over by his new ball partner for Surrey. It was thus with their last-wicket pair together that Barbados took the lead.

No one can less have wanted Barbados to declare, once they had achieved the satisfaction of passing England's total, than England's early batsmen, who had had a long time in the field. They were pleased enough, I dare say, when Marshall and Daniel batted together for another 50 minutes before Emburey took his fifth wicket. Of the three Barbadian fast bowlers, Marshall, but not Daniel or Clarke, is in the West Indian 12 for Friday's Test match. The other 11 are those who played in Trinidad.

ENGLAND: First Innings [illegible]
BARBADOS: First Innings [illegible]
FALL OF WICKETS: [illegible]
BOWLING: [illegible]
Umpires: D. Archer and S. Parris.

Patience with a bat: One of many defensive strokes from George Reifer, who batted nearly five hours for 71, is fielded by Botham.

Celtic welcome chance of cup revenge

Celtic and Rangers, who have monopolized the last 10 Scottish Cup finals, avoided a semi-final collision when the surviving teams came out of the hat in Glasgow yesterday. Celtic, the cup holders, were paired with Dundee United, who ended Celtic's League Cup participation at the semi-final stage last November. Rangers, last season's beaten finalists, drew the winners of Wednesday's rearranged quarter-final tie between Morton and Clydebank. The Celtic-Dundee United match is at Hampden Park on Saturday, April 11; the other match takes place across the city at Celtic Parkhead.

Jim McLean, whose Dundee United side went on to win the League Cup in December, commented: "This should be an exceptional tie. We proved in our League Cup semi-final win at Parkhead that we could beat them and Celtic gained ample revenge by reversing that scoreline at Tannadice in the league."

After three successive ties against opposition from lower divisions, the Celtic manager, Billy McNeill, is delighted with the chance to get to grips with a top-class side. "With respect to the others, I feel that United and ourselves are the two best form sides at the moment," he said.

"This is undeniably the plum tie of the round and after the disappointment of our League Cup defeat it gives us the chance to take sweet revenge."

Rangers, on paper, have the easier task of reaching their sixth consecutive Scottish Cup final on the pitch of their arch rivals, Celtic. Morton, who have beaten them in the premier division this season, have not won the trophy since 1922; and Clydebank had not even reached the last eight until this year.

Celtic have been given a "stay of execution" regarding a £1,000 fine imposed on them by the Scottish FA as the result of an incident on November 8 when Gordon Strachan, of Aberdeen, was attacked by a spectator during a match at Celtic Parkhead. The matter was referred to the SFA's disciplinary and referee committee for further consideration on the recommendation of the secretary, Ernie Walker, yesterday, after an appeal by the club.

Scottish Cup, semi-final draw
Celtic v Dundee United (at Hampden Park).
Rangers v Morton or Clydebank (at Celtic Parkhead)

Rossi signs for Juventus for a fee of over £1.5m

Milan, Mar 9.—Giovanni Trapattoni, the manager of Juventus, today confirmed that the club had bought Paolo Rossi, the Italian international striker. "We have been trying to get Rossi for three years," Mr Trapattoni said. "At last we have done so. Only a few details have still to be fixed. Rossi will improve the level of class of our team as well as the strength of our forward line."

Rossi was reportedly bought from Lanerossi Vicenza for a fee of more than 3.5 billion lire (about £1.6m) but Mr Trapattoni did not confirm the amount. Rossi, aged 24, will be unable to play with Juventus until April 29, 1982. A tribunal disqualified him for two years for his alleged involvement in the scandal of fixed matches last season.

Rossi was banned along with other leading Italian players, such as Lazio's centre forward, Bruno Giordano, although he pleaded not guilty and was acquitted by a Roman court recently. Juventus, currently leading the Italian League with Roma, is backed by the Agnelli family, owners of the Fiat cars.

When rumours of Rossi's transfer were first circulated last week, several Italian coaches conceded that Juventus would be unbeatable with him in their forward line. The Italian manager, Enzo Bearzot, said recently that he hoped to have Rossi back in the national side for the 1982 World Cup in Spain.

A kidnapped player dominated the game in Spain and a Norwegian upset the West German League over the weekend. Barcelona were refused permission to postpone their important game against Atletico Madrid after the kidnapping of their centre-forward, Quini. They lost 1—0 in Madrid to slip four points behind Atletico in the championship race.

An empty seat in the stands marked the absence of the Barcelona striker and a crowd of 75,000 gave the Catalan team a huge ovation. That was as far as the generosity went. Once Marcos scored the Atletico goal after 20 minutes, there was little doubt about the outcome.

SV Hamburg went two points clear of Bayern Munich in West Germany when a Norwegian midfield player, Oekland, scored three for Bayer Leverkusen in a surprise 3—0 win over Bayern, who had had a difficult European Cup match against Banik Ostrava, of Czechoslovakia, three days earlier. Hamburg, without the suspended Hrubesch and Jakobs, beat Borussia Mönchengladbach 2—1 with goals from Buljan and Magath.

Six players sent off

Buenos Aires, March 9.—River Plate, one of the leading clubs in Argentina, finished their first division match against Argentinos Juniors yesterday with only six players after the other five had been sent off. Altogether the referee dismissed six players during the match for fouls and dissent, yet Juniors won by only 3—2.—Reuter.

Fashanu fights as mystery illness strikes

Justin Fashanu, of Norwich City, has been suffering from a rare illness which almost led to his having a complete rest from football. This may partly explain the decline of the powerful striker, whose goal against Brighton 10 days ago was his first for two months.

"We never fully realised quite how ill Justin was. He is a strong lad, and rarely complains too much when he is ill or injured," Ken Brown, the club manager, said. "But try as we might, we could not clear up what we thought was a stomach bug. As quickly as we thought we had it cured, it flared up again even worse. Then we sent him to a specialist, who diagnosed a rare illness which you stand only a one-in-a-thousand chance of getting."

Fashanu, who is taking tablets for the complaint, said: "It will still take a few weeks to clear up properly. I have started to build up my weight again after losing a stone in a month."

Frank Worthington, Birmingham City's top scorer with 15 goals this season, is to join the North American Soccer League club, Tampa Bay Rowdies for £100,000. Gordon Jago, the Rowdies manager, completed the deal over the weekend, but Birmingham have still to decide when to release Worthington.

Birmingham had previously offered Worthington, aged 32, a new one-year contract and Mr Smith added: "I would expect Frank to be playing for us next season." Worthington played in America for Philadelphia Furies in 1979 and returned to England that year to be transferred from Bolton Wanderers to Birmingham for a six-figure fee.

In the meantime, Mr Smith is to fly to the Netherlands tomorrow to watch the Dutch striker, Toine van Mierlo, of the Willem II club. Mr Smith's interest in the player began when he scored against Birmingham in a pre-season "friendly" in August.

Speeding up promotion

The Football Association may introduce speedier promotion for footballers who turn to refereeing when their playing days are over. At present a referee who passes his exams is listed as class three while handling junior games and it takes many years for the better officials to reach class one or Football League status.

A player who retires in his early thirties has little or no chance of becoming a league referee before the compulsory retirement age of 47. Yesterday morning the FA Council set up a working party to study the feasibility of former players being promoted faster, but the proposal has already run into opposition from Owen Venning, secretary of the Referees' Association.

The working party has been welcomed by Gordon Taylor, secretary of the Professional Footballers' Association, who pointed out that Cricket and Rugby League use many former players to handle their games at the highest level. "We have been pressing the FA on this for some time", he said. "We believe that referees who have played the game don't always look on incidents just at face value and they gain greater respect from the players."

Yesterday's results

ALLIANCE PREMIER LEAGUE: Altrincham 4, AP Leamington 1; Northwich Victoria 2, Nuneaton 0. **SOUTHERN LEAGUE:** Midland division: Kidderminster 1, Bedworth 0. **NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE:** Gateshead 2, Gainsborough 2. **OTHER MATCH:** Brentford 3, KB Copenhagen 0. **ASUNCION:** Paraguay 2, New York Cosmos 5.

India Test is all but ruined by the weather

Christchurch, March 9.—Play was abandoned for the second day in succession in the second Test between India and New Zealand at Lancaster Park today. Rain, which forced the cancellation of the third day yesterday, continued steadily overnight and throughout the morning, making play impossible. Today had been officially scheduled as the rest day in the five-day match but because no play was possible yesterday this was to have been the third playing day.

Only 51 minutes of play were possible on the second day of the match (Saturday) when rain and bad light intervened and the first day's play had to be shortened by 95 minutes for the same reasons. India, batting first, remain 174 for two with Vengsarkar 36 not out and Vishwanath 2 not out.

With further unsettled weather predicted for tomorrow it is likely that the match will be drawn. Such a result would give New Zealand an unassailable 1—0 lead in the three-Test series

The New Zealand Cricket Council today announced they would show a profit on the current tour by India—thanks to the rain. The break-even point of NZ$250,000 (about £104,000) was reached yesterday.

Rules on overseas players likely to be tightened

By Richard Streeton

Today's meeting of the Test and County Cricket Board at Lord's is a reminder that the new English season starts in six weeks time. The delegates are expected to tighten the rules for overseas-born players wishing to qualify for England; otherwise there is a reluctance to tinker further with the regulations after the important changes made in December to playing conditions for the coming summer.

These included the total covering of pitches, which brought so much dismay to traditionalists and others, and the abolition of the 100 overs limit on first innings, which was universally welcomed.

The 1981 changes will be reviewed in the autumn and it will almost certainly be agreed to defer lengthy consideration of further amendments until then. The advocates of four-day championship matches remain extremely voluble, even if the board's cricket committee is against the idea. Some counties would like less rigid playing hours, notably in the west of England where later finishes are feasible; others would like minor adjustments to the one-day competitions. Any changes agreed later this year would not be implemented until 1983.

The well aired recommendations of the working party under Colin Atkinson (Somerset) on overseas cricketers are expected to be passed. There are three main points: the cricketer wishing to play for England should be a British citizen; he should have given a declaration of intent before starting his qualifying period; the existing ten-year residential qualification should continue, unless the cricketer's father or mother were born in the United Kingdom and had retained their British citizenship. In that case a four-year residential qualification would apply. In any event, the cricketer must not have played in a Test match for the country of his birth during his qualifying period.

Among the recommendations for the new covering rules is one that empowers the umpires to authorize matting to be placed on particularly wet or muddy areas on the field. It is also suggested that the slightly more lax conditions often accepted for John Player League matches should be applied to all cricket.

With no alternative candidates put forward by the counties, the England selectors—Alec Bedser (chairman), Charles Elliott, Ken Barrington and Brian Close—will be reappointed.

W Australia win shield for eighth time

Western Australia won the Sheffield Shield for the eighth time when their match against Queensland ended in a draw yesterday.

Queensland, needing to win to take the title for the first time, were set the almost impossible task of scoring 408 for victory. They managed 232 for nine, the Test match batsman, Allan Border, saving them from defeat with an unbeaten 83.

In Johannesburg, Transvaal won their final Currie Cup match against Eastern Province, but lost their two-year hold on the championship to Natal, after taking only 18 points. They required at least 21 points to stand any chance of retaining the title, but their batsmen managed only three first-innings bonus points.

PERTH: Sheffield Shield: Western Australia [illegible]; Queensland [illegible] and 232 for 9 [illegible]. **GEELONG:** Sheffield Shield: South Australia 312 for 6 dec and 307 for 5 dec; Victoria 328 for 2 dec and 161 for 5 (G. N. Yallop 66). Match drawn. **JOHANNESBURG:** Currie Cup: Transvaal 260 for 9 dec (K. McKenzie 105, J. Cook 66; W. K. Watson 5 for 47) and 172 for 5 dec (R. G. Pollock 51 not out, Cook 55); Eastern Province 138 (A. Kourie 4 for 44) and 140 (R. Whyte 55; Kourie 4 for 45). Transvaal won by 156 runs. **HYDERABAD:** Second under-19 international match: Pakistan 424 for 8 dec; Australia 207 and 212. Pakistan won by an innings and 5 runs.

For the record

Ice hockey

NATIONAL LEAGUE: St Louis Blues 7, Colorado Rockies 0; Boston Bruins 4, Vancouver Canucks 1; Washington Capitals 7, Toronto Maple Leafs 3; Buffalo Sabres 8, Philadelphia Flyers 4; Calgary Flames 5, Hartford Whalers 4; Pittsburgh Penguins 6, Edmonton Oilers 4; New York Rangers 4, Detroit Red Wings 4; Chicago Black Hawks 3, Quebec Nordiques 2; Los Angeles Kings 4, Winnipeg Jets 1.

Show jumping

ANTWERP: World Cup: 1, G. Bertrand de Balanda (France), Galoubet, 4 flts, 35.1secs; 2, D. Ricketts (GB), Goldstream, 4, 40.43; 3, G. Wiltfang (WG), Goldika, 4, 41.4; 4, F. Ligges (WG), Gora, 8, 36.4. Standings (after seven events): 1, F. Cottier (France), 60 pts; 2, C. Bradley (GB), 55; 3, T. Fruhmann (Austria), 53; 4, D. Broome (GB), 52; 5, D. Ricketts (GB), 48.

Snooker

SANDWELL: English professional championship: First round: A. Meo beat J. Virgo, 9—6; R. Edmonds beat F. Davis, 9—6; S. Davis beat J. Meadowcroft, 9—2; G. Miles beat S. Hood, 9—1.

Tennis

MIAMI: Legends championship: Men's singles final: R. Laver (Australia) beat C. Richey (US), 6—3, 6—2. Doubles final: R. Emerson (Australia) and F. Stolle (US) beat K. Rosewall and Laver (Australia), 6—4, 6—3.

LAS VEGAS: Women's singles final: Y. Vermaak (SA) beat I. Budarova (Czechoslovakia), 6—2, 6—3. Doubles final: S. Acker and P. Smith (US) beat K. Jordan and L. Dupont (US), 2—6, 6—4, 6—3.

DENVER: Men's singles (all US), semi-final: G. Mayer beat M. Purcell, 3—6, 6—0, 6—2; J. Sadri beat F. Buehning, 5—7, 6—3, 7—6. Final: Mayer beat Sadri, 6—4, 6—4.

Athletics

HAVANA: 100m: 1, M. Robertson (US), 10.11sec. 110m hurdles: 1, A. Casanas (Cuba), 13.73. 400m: 1, P. Simons, 46.49. 4 x 100m relay: 1, Cuba, 40.17.

Motor cycling

DAYTONA BEACH (US unless stated): 1, D. Singleton, Yamaha, 1hr 51min 13.5sec; 2, M. Fontan (France), Yamaha; 3, R. Schlachter, Yamaha; 4, D. Aldana, Yamaha; 5, D. Chivington, Yamaha; 6, K. Stafford, Yamaha.

Today's fixtures

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

FA CUP: Sixth round replays: Ipswich Town v Nottingham Forest; Wolverhampton Wanderers v Middlesbrough.

SECOND DIVISION: Bristol City v Grimsby.

THIRD DIVISION: Chesterfield v Swindon.

FOURTH DIVISION: Darlington v Lincoln; Tranmere v Bradford City.

SOUTHERN LEAGUE: Midland division: Bromsgrove v Taunton; Gloucester v Merthyr Tydfil; Minehead v Alvechurch; Redditch v Bridgend. Southern division: Andover v Aylesbury; Hastings v Ashford; Hillingdon v Bognor Regis.

NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE CUP: Third round, second replay: Witton Albion v Runcorn.

NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE: Netherfield v Morecambe.

ALLIANCE PREMIER LEAGUE CUP: Semi-final, first leg: Barrow v Kettering.

ALLIANCE PREMIER LEAGUE: Barnet v Bangor City.

ISTHMIAN LEAGUE: First division: Kingstonian v Wembley.

ATHENIAN LEAGUE: Banstead v Windsor and Eton; Basildon v Haringey Borough; Chalfont St Peter v Leyton Wingate; Redhill v Harefield; Welling v Woodford.

LONDON SENIOR CUP: Third round replay: Cheshunt v Carshalton.

SURREY SENIOR CUP: Second round replay: Epsom v Walton.

BERKS AND BUCKS SENIOR CUP: Semi-final: Slough v Aylesbury United.

Latest European snow reports

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	Piste	Conditions Off piste	Runs to resort	Weather (5 pm) —	°C
Crans Montana	65	150	Poor	Varied	Good	Fine	5
New snow on all slopes							
Flaine	145	500	Good	Varied	Slushy	Fine	8
Slush on lower slopes							
Kitzbühel	50	185	Soft	Heavy	Fine	Sun	8
Worn areas on lower slopes							
Klosters	100	200	Fair	Heavy	Good	Fine	-1
Worn patches on lower slopes							
Les Arcs	80	200	Fair	Varied	Fair	Fine	4
Worn patches on lower slopes							
Sauze d'Oulx	15	65	Worn	Varied	Closed	Thaw	8
Slush on most slopes							
Wengen	60	165	Good	Heavy	Good	Fair	3
Slush on lower slopes							
Wildschönau	75	190	Fair	Heavy	Fair	Sun	9
Slushy on many runs							

In the above reports, supplied by representatives of the Ski Club of Great Britain, L refers to lower slopes and U to upper slopes. The following reports have been received from other sources:

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	State of Piste	Weather —	°C
FRANCE					
Alpe d'Huez	170	320	—	—	—
Chamonix	80	250	—	—	—
La Clusaz	[illegible]	[illegible]	—	—	—
Les Contamines	80	350	—	—	—
Les Deux Alpes	125	250	—	—	—
Megève	50	270	—	—	—
Méribel	210	293	—	—	—
Pra-Loup	20	50	—	—	—
St Gervais	10	215	—	—	—
Superdévoluy	130	150	—	—	—
SWITZERLAND					
Adelboden	50	140	Wet	—	3
Arosa	120	180	Soft	—	1
Braunwald	40	130	Soft	—	6
Château d'Oex	40	120	Wet	—	5
Disentis	[illegible]	[illegible]	Hard	—	[illegible]
Engelberg	[illegible]	25?	Wet	—	[illegible]
[illegible]	80	250	Wet	—	[illegible]
[illegible]	70	200	Soft	—	[illegible]
Lenk	80	250	Pwdr	—	[illegible]
Lenzerheide	70	170	Wet	—	[illegible]
Les Diablerets	60	160	Hard	—	[illegible]
Leysin	60	130	Wet	—	[illegible]
Pontresina	80	150	Wet	—	[illegible]
Saas-Fee	80	80	Pwdr	—	[illegible]
St Cergue	25	70	Pwdr	—	1
St Moritz	110	120	Hard	—	[illegible]
Stoos	20	60	Hard	—	[illegible]
Unterwasser	50	90	Hard	—	[illegible]
Villars	80	120	Wet	—	[illegible]
Zermatt	100	300	Wet	—	[illegible]
	40	100	Pwdr	—	[illegible]

Hockey

A red card puts RAF player out of tournament

By Sydney Friskin

Army 2 RAF 3

There was a dramatic finish at Aldershot yesterday to one of the best games for many years between the Royal Air Force and the Army in the services hockey tournament. Chris Duerden, of the RAF, was shown the red card after the game was over, which means that he is out of the tournament.

The trouble started in the second period of extra time when Duerden was given the yellow card for dissent over the award of a long corner to the Army. His suspension continued until the end and the red card incident took place while the players were leaving the field. Not many who witnessed a game played in fine sporting spirit were aware of the umpire's decision nor its implications.

Although authority must be respected—and nowhere is this more acceptable than in the services—it raises the question of whether the red card was ever designed for this purpose and its use in these circumstances must highlight a weakness in the existing system. The Royal Navy umpire, Richard Wood, who suspended Duerden said that he had done so for "insulting behaviour". Beyond that he declined to comment.

It was a sad end to a match in which both teams had periods of ascendancy. The Army, who should have scored within 30 seconds of the start, found themselves a goal down in the sixth minute, Draper having converted a short corner for the RAF. Scopes restored the balance with a well-taken goal in the 20th minute and three minutes later Jenner scored from a short corner to send the Army into the interval leading 2—1.

Channa, who had come on as a substitute, put the RAF back in the game in the 24th minute with a follow-up shot from a long corner. Then, in the fourth minute of extra time Bales scored the winning goal with a fine angled shot

Both goalkeepers made several smart saves from corners in extremely difficult conditions, although the match was played on the all-weather pitch.

ARMY: Capt F. G. Moss (Staffordshire Regiment); Capt D. Marwaha (REME), Lt-Col M. W. Stott (RE), Capt C. C. N. Jarrett-Kerr (RE), Major H. D. Jenner (Cheshire Regiment, captain), 2nd Lt P. Leighton (Greenhowards), Capt K. A. Buglier (RAEC), sub, 2nd Lt H. W. Blackett (Light Infantry), 2nd Lt C. Wood (RC), Private I. P. Jennings (Parachute Regiment), 2nd Lt A. Scopes (RA), Cpl G. Hardwick (RAPC).

RAF: J Tech J. Marshall; Sgt C. Paddon, Fl Lt I. Draper, Sgt A. Leaverland, Cpl I. Clinton, Sgt C. Duerden, Fl Lt P. Sutton, Fl Off S. Davidson, Fl Off D. Robertson, Sgt R. Bales (sub, J Tech S. Channa), Fl Lt S. Bales (captain).

Umpires: Cpl J. Patel (RAF), CPO R. Wood (Royal Navy).

Rowing

Oxford are in ship shape now for the Boat Race

By Jim Railton

Cambridge's results against the British lightweights, to whom Oxford showed a clean pair of heels over a week ago, were inconclusive over the weekend. Oxford's margin of victories was five to six lengths; Cambridge won by three-quarters of a length and lost by a length and a half with tempers frayed.

Sunday's victory might have been greater and the defeat came after Cambridge had rowed a solo six minutes while the lightweights retired hastily to effect repairs. Cambridge have made one change to their original line-up, promoting Phillips, a Blue, to No 6 seat and moving Clark, a Goldie oarsman, back to four. They faced the lightweights with four of their five Blues in the stern.

Considering the time, effort, distances travelled and the cost of equipment, it always puzzles me why such test pieces on the Tideway are not controlled by an umpire. In their projected first seven-minute row on Sunday the crews clashed within 90 seconds, were interlocked for more than a minute, and the lightweights smashed an oar after five minutes when Cambridge were moving out to a lead of over three-quarters of a length.

Simon Jeffries, the lightweight's cox, swears he was on the right course. If it had been an hour later, and the course had been maintained, both crews would have gatecrashed the lunchtime jazz session at the Bulls Head at Barnes. Wigglesworth, the Cambridge coxswain, held his own splendidly, giving way only when his racing shell was at risk.

Cambridge's solo six minutes were not good. The rate varied and it was a soulless effort. The final test against the lightweights was one they could have well done without. Wigglesworth missed the tide, the lightweights were clear in two minutes, and Jeffries shut the door hard, leaving Cambridge to pursue lying astern. The lightweights went out as far as two lengths, Cambridge rallied in the last half minute, leaving a length and a half deficit over five minutes and a half.

Oxford are in shape for the Boat Race now while Cambridge could do with an extension beyond April 4, when it is due to be held. Oxford's supremacy is obvious visually. Cambridge can only improve. They should try to finish one stroke completely before beginning the next.

Correction

The bumps chart for Oxford University Torpids was incorrect in division six on the last two days. Lady Margaret Hall bumped Balliol III on February 27 and Merton II on February 28 to finish fourth. The final order for division six was as follows: Queen's V, University III, Lincoln III, LMH, Merton II, St Peter's IV, Balliol III, St Peter's III, Oriel VI, Balliol IV, Mansfield II, LMH II.

Motor racing

Moss and BP link up again

By John Blunsden

Stirling Moss, who built his illustrious Grand Prix career on the back of a long-term sponsorship contract with British Petroleum, has renewed his link with his former backer after a gap of 19 years.

BP have joined forces with the Toleman Group as leading supporters of the official Audi team, for whom Moss, in the second year of his racing comeback, will be contesting the British Saloon Car Championship. Moss, now 51, will have a new regular driving partner in Martin Brundle, who is 21 and was only two when Moss's formula one career was cut short by his near-fatal accident at Goodwood. Their Audi 80 two-door saloons will be prepared by Tom Walkinshaw Racing, and a third car will be provided for guest drivers at selected events.

Toleman and BP had a highly successful association last year in formula two, when their team leader, Brian Henton, emerged the outright winner, and his partner, Derek Warwick, the runner-up in the European Championship.

This year, the Toleman team have moved up to formula one, and Henton and Warwick will drive new cars designed by Rory Byrne and powered by a 1.5 litres turbocharged four-cylinder engine, developed by Brian Hart Engineering, of Harlow. Their first world championship race is expected to be the San Marino Grand Prix, at Imola, on May 3. This new formula one team is being backed by the Italian domestic appliance manufacturers, Candy, who lent their name to the Tyrrell team last year.

Basketball

Announcement from Palace steals limelight

By Nicholas Harling

Crystal Palace may have been deposed as National League champions, but they are staying in the limelight as the season approaches its climax, the championship play-offs at Wembley next weekend.

At a press conference yesterday to preview the event, Palace captured the attention with two statements, neither connected with the play-offs. First, the president of a large American company based in London, who wished to remain anonymous, has paid off the debts Palace incurred during their years at the top; second, every £1 of sponsorship the club might receive, up to £45,000, will be increased by another £1 from the company.

Palace have qualified for Europe next season, no matter what happens at Wembley, and David Last, their chairman, said: "Sponsorship will enable us to launch an attack on European honours and to continue developing our club programme for men, women and juniors. The company want no publicity, even though they have removed this millstone from around our necks by settling our debts. They have kept the club alive for the past five years."

Palace also made it known that they are dissatisfied with the English Basketball Association's disciplinary procedure. Two of their players, Bob Roma and Michael Bett, are suspended for one match and will miss the game with Ovaltine Hemel Hempstead on Friday. Earlier in the season Joe Pace, of Hemel Hempstead received a two-match suspended sentence for a similar chair-throwing offence to the one committed by Roma, and since then Michael Samson, of Team Fiat, Birmingham, the champions, has received a one-game suspended sentence for "brushing" a referee, which means that he will be free to play against Sunderland on Friday.

Peter Sprogis, the English Basketball Association's development officer, who wants a new disciplinary structure implemented next season, said: "There is an apparent discrepancy, but the technical committee deliberated and decided that certain cases merited the player being banned and others did not."

Alton Byrd, Palace's effervescent guard, received the most valuable player of the year award, which is decided by his fellow players.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION: Boston Celtics 115, New York Knicks 94; Washington Bullets 105, Chicago Bulls 99; Philadelphia 76ers 103, Milwaukee Bucks 100; Kansas City Kings 105, Phoenix Suns 98; San Antonio Spurs 133, Dallas Mavericks 108; Indiana Pacers 129, Denver Nuggets 119; San Diego Clippers 103, Seattle Supersonics 92; Portland Trail Blazers 120, Golden State Warriors 112 (ot).

Golf

Kite's late challenge brings him Inverrary victory

Lauderhill, Florida, March 9.—Tom Kite, who began the day four shots behind Curtis Strange, scored a 69 in the final round to win the $54,000 first prize in the Inverrary tournament here. This was the third tour victory for Kite, who has been on the Professional Golfers Association circuit for nine years, and was his first win since September, 1978.

Strange, who was four strokes ahead of Kite and Larry Ziegler when he teed off, faltered with a final round of 75 over the 7,129-yard Inverrary Country Club course. He finished in third place, two shots behind Kite's 14 under par total of 274.

Jack Nicklaus, who had started six shots behind in fifth place, finished with a 68 to gain second place with a 13 under par total of 275. A one over par five at the 18th hole deprived Nicklaus of the chance of forcing Kite into a sudden-death playoff.

Andy Bean, winner of the Bay Hill tournament last week, and Larry Ziegler, lying second after three rounds, shared fourth place another stroke back on 277. Bean had a 68 and Ziegler matched par with a 72.

Charles Coody and Johnny Miller were next on 278, Coody with a 69 and Miller a 72.

FINAL SCORES (US unless stated): 274: T. Kite, 69, 68, 68, 69. 275: J. Nicklaus, 65, 73, 69, 68. 276: C. Strange, 68, 67, 66, 75. 277: L. Ziegler, 65, 69, 72, 71; A. Bean, 69, 71, 69, 68. 278: C. Coody, 67, 72, 70, 69; J. Miller, 70, 70, 66, 72. [illegible] H. Irwin, [illegible]; J. Pate, [illegible]; M. O'Meara, [illegible]; V. Heafner, [illegible]; R. Murphy, [illegible]; M. Donald, [illegible]; L. Thompson, [illegible]; M. Hatalsky, [illegible]; T. Purtzer, [illegible]; R. Floyd, [illegible]. British score: [illegible] K. Brown, [illegible].—Reuter and Agence France-Presse.

Big man from the west rides tall again in the east

Bangkok, March 9.—Tom Sieckmann, a 6ft 5in American from Omaha, Nebraska, added the Thailand Open to the Philippine Open when he scored a par-72 final round for an aggregate of 281, three ahead of his three closest challengers.

The moustachioed Sieckmann, who was tied for the third-round lead with Denny Hepler, from Warsaw, Indiana, saw his compatriot's challenge fade away in the last round. Hepler had a final 77 for a total of 286. On 284 were a veteran American, Gaylord Burrows; Payne Stewart, from Springfield, Missouri; and Yutaka Hagawa, of Japan. Stewart had a five-under-par 67, containing six birdies, for a course record.

FINAL AGGREGATES: 281: T. Sieckmann (US), 69, 70, 70, 72. 284: P. Stewart (US), [illegible]; G. Burrows (US), [illegible]; Y. Hagawa (Japan), [illegible]. [illegible] S. Ginn (Australia), [illegible]; Tsao Chien Teng (Taiwan), [illegible]; C. Ball (Australia), [illegible]; Hsu Sheng San (Taiwan), [illegible]; D. Hepler (US), [illegible]; B. Arda (Philippines), [illegible]; K. Cox (US), [illegible]; Shusuma [illegible] (Japan), [illegible]; Sheng Chung Shan (Taiwan), [illegible]; [illegible] (Japan), 74, 70, 71, 72.—Agence France-Presse.

LANCASTER: Schools championship: Qualifying round: 1, Hutton GS, [illegible]; 2, Cockermouth GS, [illegible]. Individual: [illegible] M. Lowe (Cockermouth).

STOKE POGES: 1, Royal GS, High Wycombe, 294; 2, Eton College, [illegible]. Individual: 77, D. Brandon (Oxford School).

Easy passage for Mrs Lopez-Melton

Tuscon, March 9.—Nancy Lopez-Melton was never threatened yesterday when she won the Arizona Classic by four strokes from Pat Bradley. Mrs Lopez-Melton, who was winning her first tournament of the 1981 Ladies Professional Golf Association tour and the twenty-first of her career, scored a final-round 68, including seven birdies, for a total of 278.

Miss Bradley, who with Joanne Carner today set a course record of 67, six under par, came to within two strokes of the leader after seven holes, but fell behind Mrs Lopez-Melton, who had birdies at the eighth and ninth, and was never approached thereafter. She led by as many as five shots on the back nine. The win increased Mrs Lopez-Melton's earnings this year to over $35,000 (about £16,000).

FINAL SCORES (US unless stated): 278: N. Lopez-Melton, 70, 72, 68, 68. 282: P. Bradley, 73, 71, 73, 67. [illegible] M. van Hoose, 74, 70, 70, 73. [illegible] J. Carner, [illegible]; A. Miller, [illegible]; P. Hayes, [illegible]; A. Alcott, [illegible]; K. Whitworth, [illegible]; D. Caponi, [illegible]; J. Coles, [illegible]; J. Alex, [illegible]; J. Stephenson (Australia), [illegible].—Agencies.

Hospitals Cup move

The Hospitals Cup final between St Mary's and London tomorrow has been transferred from Richmond to the Rossyln Park ground at Roehampton.

Britain rejects EEC compromise plan for coastal fisheries

By Hugh Clayton
Agriculture Correspondent

British ministers said yesterday that they would not compromise on their demand for large Continental trawlers to be kept out of a belt between 12 and 50 miles from the northern coast of Britain.

That was made clear yesterday to Mr Gaston Thorn, President of the European Commission, who had postponed a meeting of Community fisheries ministers by 24 hours in order to seek a compromise between the French and British positions.

He spent an hour at the RAF Northolt airport before leaving for Paris. Mr Thorn and Mr George Kontogeorgis, EEC Commissioner for Fisheries, met Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary and Mr Peter Walker, Minister of Agriculture.

Mr Walker told the Commissioners that any common fisheries policy would have to include a rule forbidding all fishing boats more than 80ft long from entering the 12 to 50 mile belt stretching from Flamborough Head in the east round the whole of Scotland to some point on the Irish Sea coast in north-west England.

Mr Walker also insisted that any common fisheries agreement would be rejected by Britain unless it was given a permanent framework within which operating rules could be changed to fit new stocking or consumption patterns.

He repeated British claims to exclusive fishing rights within 12 miles of the coasts of the United Kingdom with some areas open to foreign penetration on the basis of traditional fishing activity.

EEC reform endangered: Alarmed by the danger that the fisheries dispute, if allowed to drag on, could complicate this year's negotiations on EEC farm prices and the planned reform of the Community's finances, Mr Thorn decided last week to intervene personally to underline the political importance of an early solution (Michael Hornsby writes from Brussels).

The Northolt meeting came hard on the heels of the adoption last week by the Commission of new proposals on the issue of coastal access, which are regarded in Whitehall as completely inadequate.

By contrast, the French take the view that they have made a big concession by being prepared even to discuss the prolongation of the existing 12-mile limit, which they hold to be no more granted by Britain at the time of EEC entry. The French are totally opposed to any restrictions whatever beyond the 12 miles.

Chances of agreement are therefore remote at tomorrow's crucial meeting of EEC agriculture ministers in Brussels.

French strike ripples through education

From Charles Hargrove
Paris, March 9

French education is in for a rough week, starting today with a protest by primary and secondary school teachers.

They went on strike for the day against the new "school map" of the country, the system which allocates staff in accordance with population changes.

They are also angry about the closing down of classes and teaching posts and, above all, about salaries. The changes decided by the Government a few weeks ago benefit only young teachers entering the profession in the autumn of next year—about 4,500 out of a total of nearly 300,000.

Tomorrow teachers in technical colleges stage a stoppage and on Wednesday, the European Committee of Education personnel will demonstrate in front of the Parliament in Strasbourg against the general cut in education budgets.

On Thursday, a national strike has been called in the universities and on Friday teachers in professional training centres take their own action.

Today's stoppage is the first big strike by teachers since the two-day strikes in April last year.

Between 75 and 90 per cent of the primary school teachers—according to various estimates—observed the strike call. It meant no classes or canteens or day nurseries in most schools in Paris and the provinces. The strike action was less widespread in secondary schools.

M Christian Beullac, the Minister of Education, said in a broadcast this morning that the strike was political and ritual in character because it had been decided three months ago. "It is a case of the socialist *majority of the SNI showing* the communist minority that it can be as tough in defending its members' interests".

He was asked whether teachers, who now receice 3,600 Francs (about £326) a month when they leave teachers' training college, and 5,900 Francs at the end of their career, fared poory

He said that as far as holidays, conditions of work, and career openings, they did not. But he identified the real problem when he emphasized that it was not so much a question of money, as one of consideration.

The marked transformation of French society in the last 30 years, the drift from the country to the towns, has disrupted the old social patterns and devalued the role of the school teacher in the state.

Readers of Balzac, Flaubert and Duhamel may remember that the nineteenth century teacher, along with the doctor and the priest, was a notable

The system of compulsory state education, instituted by Jules Ferry, whose centenary is being celebrated this year, created "the schools of the republic" and the most dedicated selfless disciples of the young and insecure regime were the primary school teachers.

They not only taught the three R's but also secular morality and civics. Their role was immense in helping to weld together a nation still divided by the Revolution and the convulsions of the nineteenth century.

Fifty years ago, M Beullac said, teachers were probably less well off than they are now—but they were respected.

Now, they fail to enjoy the consideration to which they are entitled from their pupils, the *pupils' parents or the general* public.

And a general improvement in their wage scales would threaten to mushroom to all the other categories of officials.

Conscious of the unpopularity of strike action, and of its limited chances of success, M Guy Gorges, secretary-general of the SNI, said recently: "What can we do? Stage an unlimited strike to get 500 francs a month more when the parents of our pupils are unemployed?"

He emphasized that "the problem today is to know if the primary and secondary school teachers are respected or otherwise because of their great responsibilities or treated in a contemptuous fashion which we do not accept".

150 bodies to be exhumed

Oslo, March 9.—The director of an old people's home was charged today with the murder of a patient and a court granted police permission to exhume the bodies of 150 former patients.

Arnfinn Nesset, aged 44, was alleged to have poisoned the patient with curare, a drug used to paralyse the motor nerves, at the home in Orkdal, Central Norway.—UPI.

Herr Kohl opens the congress with a hand bell. On his left is Herr Heiner Geissler, secretary-general of the party.

Christian Democrats score a boring success

From Patricia Clough
Mannheim, March 9

The Christian Democrats' party congress today became just what its leaders wanted—deadly boring. Herr Helmut Kohl, the CDU chairman, alerted delegates in his opening speech against any tactics that would swing public attention from the difficulties of the SPD-FDP coalition.

The CDU is deliberately lying low while the SPD is obligingly tearing itself apart over the problems of the moment. The opposition feels that the wind from the storms in the coalition is gradually filling its own sails.

Some members are urging the leadership to capitalize on the coalition's plight with harder opposition, but Herr Kohl has refused. He said in an interview today that his party must not give the impression that "its tongue is hanging out for power".

Instead, the leadership carefully calculated today what it hoped was a refreshing picture of unity in the opposition. None of the big issues, such as nuclear energy or arms exports—on which their members are also divided—was up for discussion.

So dull was the agenda that the organizers had to arrange for a somewhat artificial debate on housing problems just to show that the party is capable of internal discussion.

Herr Franz Josef Strauss, leader of the Bavarian Christian Social Union was brought on to deliver more than an hour of rhetorical fireworks against Herr Helmut Schmidt's Government. Although by nature he would prefer an all-out fight he has been restrained, limiting himself today to saying that the opposition must make itself more effective.

The point of Herr Strauss's appearance, delegates said, was to demonstrate harmony between the two sister parties. Relations in the past couple of years have been none too easy. Politically, Herr Strauss has now dwindled in importance.

It was the first party congress since the CDU and CSV lost October's elections with Herr Strauss as their candidate for the chancellorship. The defeat had the welcome effect for the CDU of putting an end once and for all to Herr Strauss's claim to leadership and reducing his ability to make difficulties for Herr Kohl.

It also left Herr Kohl, who had been ousted by Herr Strauss as the opposition's candidate, greatly increased in stature. He was reelected chairman today by 689 votes to 20

He is setting out to turn the CDU into an effective opposition party

But the policies he outlined in his speech today showed little difference from those of Herr Helmut Schmidt, the Chancellor. He confirmed the party's post-election shift—after years of opposing the Government's *Ostpolitik*—in favour of détente. He agreed that a balance of power was essential for international security.

He demanded "a more human face" to the welfare policy. The biggest criticisms came on economics and finance in which he attacked state subsidies to firms, state indebtedness and what he considered to be irresponsible spending.

But the real debates were left to another day. The CDU has not discussed why it lost the election, or how it can attract young people and women who have turned their backs on the party.

In the interests of unity Herr Kohl has stifled any inquests

'Temporary' force that helped create an empire and lost 30,000 men on its battlefields

The Foreign Legion is 150 today

From Ian Murray
Paris, March 9

On March 10, 1831, Louis Philippe, as many rulers of France before him had done, signed an *ordonnance* creating a foreign unit of soldiers to be used for the internal protection of France. At the time he probably regarded it as only a temporary measure. But tomorrow is being celebrated as the hundred and fiftieth birthday of this toughest fighting unit in the French Army—the Foreign Legion.

Ever since the fifteenth century France had used foreigners—particularly the Scots and Swiss—to keep the Army up to strength in times of need. The French involvement in Algeria in 1831 created such a need and Louis Philippe filled it by using the traditional source of manpower.

It is significant that the first *ordonnance* stipulated that the new foreign unit could not be used outside Continental territory and yet that within months it was seeing action in Africa. *Its close involvement with the* capture, control and eventual loss of the French Empire as well as its use as a potent instrument of French foreign policy, have between them formed the basis for most of its traditions and controversial history.

Those traditions have been built up in the course of long campaigns in some of the most unpleasant theatres of war the world has ever had to offer from the Crimean cold to the Saharan heat. In the course of them more than 30,000 legionnaires have died—a third of them in Indo-China alone—and a library of legends has been written.

The patron of the paratroops is Saint Michael, although they have never exactly earned the reputation of being a band of angels themselves. While major criminals like murderers and rapists are meant to be weeded out long before a recruit can put on the white képi and the bright red epaulettes of a légionnaire, there are undoubtedly bank robbers and petty criminals in their protected ranks.

Only about one in five of those who volunteer passes all the tests for entry and can then benefit from the automatic loss of identity granted to each man. The recruiting officers are looking for hard men, with a ruthless but controllable streak.

Today, slightly over half the Legion are Frenchmen, who have pretended to be Belgian, Swiss or French Canadian to overcome the regulation which prevents them entering, and this fact has caused some resentment among the real foreigners who consider the Legion is for them alone.

After the French, the Germans have the largest contingent of 10 per cent. The British contingent has grown from 3 per cent to 5 per cent since Mrs Margaret Thatcher came to power, and unemployment is generally given as one of the main reasons for joining the Legion today.

But nationalities are of little or no importance to the true légionnaires. Their motto is *Legio patria nostra* (The Legion, our country) and men from over 50 nations have fought and died wearing its uniform. Ironically, men who had fled from Nazi Germany to join it before the last war found themselves brothers-in-arms with men from the Wehrmacht when the war ended.

Although they fight for France their allegiance is basically to themselves. Their prayer in the days of the Algerian war well sums up their individual inspiration: "Give me, my God, that which you have left over. Give me that for which you are never asked. I do not ask for wealth nor for success, nor even for health.... Give me that which people refuse to take from you. I want insecurity and restlessness. I want torment and brawling.... Let me be sure to have them always for I will not always have the courage to ask you for them."

That attitude helped the Legion to win the Algerian war militarily and to lose it politically. They backed the unsuccessful Putsch in Algeria in 1961, and rode off in lorries to their courtmartial afterwards singing *Je ne regrette rien*.

That attitude has continued to make them an essential unit of the French Army, which is, apart from the Legion and a very small number of regiments, made up of conscripts. When France wants a crack unit to do a hard job—as happened at Kolwezi in 1978—the Legion is the obvious choice.

But that attitude has won it many enemies in France, especially on the Left. The Communists and Socialists have both talked of disbanding it if they win the presidential elections.

In fact the Legion has become so indispensible a part of the French Army that the public can probably expect to cheer it, as it parades with its menacing slow march down the Champs Elysées, for the next 150 years.

Accused politician is cheered

From Our Correspondent
Valletta, March 9

A large crowd cheered Dr Guido de Marco, deputy leader of Malta's opposition Nationalist Party, this morning as he left the court where he faced a charge of making false public accusations against Mr Dom Mintoff, the Prime Minister, and the police inspectors.

In court, Dr Anton Depasquale, the magistrate, dismissed a police application for the case to proceed with urgency.

The case arises out of a speech Dr de Marco made in which he referred to the arrest of four journalists allegedly for spreading false information in connexion with the throwing of a bomb at a group of industrialists.

Dr de Marco is alleged to have falsely accused the Prime Minister, the Commissioner of Police and two police inspectors of improper acts in the administration of government.

The magistrate reprimanded the government Department of Information for broadcasting news of the police application for the case to be dealt with speedily before Dr de Marco had been notified that such an application would be made.

Yesterday a crowd twice the normal size gathered in his constituency to hear Dr de Marco say that the Government would fail if it tried to muzzle opposition. If any members of the opposition were arrested, others would take over, he said. He was carried shoulder high from the meeting.

Delhi says states have power of censorship

From Our Correspondent
Delhi, March 9

After the imposition of press censorship in Assam, the Central Government has pointed out that the states are empowered to do so without consulting Delhi.

All newspapers and journals in Assam have to submit their copy to the state officials before using it. On some occasions the papers have left censored portions blank even at the risk of losing advertisements from the Government and public undertakings.

The matter came before Parliament today because the Assam Government had censored a statement issued by 51 MPs which called for an early solution to the detection and deportation of "foreigners" from the state.

Chile emergency extended

Santiago, March 9.—President Augusto Pinochet says he will extend the state of emergency on Wednesday when Chile's new constitution takes effect and he begins an eight-year term.

The move suspends constitutional guarantees for six months and gives the President broad powers he says are needed "to combat Marxist aggression". The state of emergency has been in effect since 1973, when President Pinochet came to power by ousting Presi-

Canada a test for Reagan rhetoric

From David Cross
Washington, March 9

When Mr Reagan leaves Washington tomorrow for his first trip outside the United States as President he will discover that his election dream of forging a close relationship with America's northern neighbour is not as simple as his campaign rhetoric might have suggested.

During two days *of talks with* Mr Pierre Trudeau, the Canadian Prime Minister, and senior Canadian officials, Mr Reagan will be discussing such thorny topics as American involvement in El Salvador, East Coast fishing rights, a new gas pipeline from Alaska, and the problem of acid rain pollution.

Most of these mundane but important themes were not exactly the kind Mr Reagan had in mind when during his year-long quest for the presidency he suggested a special pact to improve cooperation among the three North American nations (including Mexico).

But if ties with America's touchy neighbours are to be strengthened, trade and environmental issues are likely to provide the cement.

The most tricky issue during *the talks is likely to be the* long-running dispute between the two countries over fishing rights off New England.

the ratification of a treaty between the two countries. that he does not want the problem to remain in "diplomatic limbo" for ever. He believes, however, that the pact should be renegotiated with Ottawa to take account of the objections of American fishermen.

The Canadians are almost as irritated by the failure of the United States to start even *preliminary work on an* Alaska gas pipeline which will traverse Canadian territory. They have started construction work on their section, but are afraid that if Mr Reagan lifts price controls on American natural gas, as he is likely to, this would price Alaskan gas out of the market.

On the foreign policy front, the most significant differences between Mr Reagan and Mr Trudeau focus on Washington's recent decision to increase the number of military advisers and the amount of war *materiel* being sent to El Salvador. The Canadian leader told Parliament in Ottawa last week that he disagreed with the move.

In addition to his talks with Canadian Government leaders, Mr Reagan will attend a state dinner at Government House *tomorrow* night after a gala performance at Ottawa's National Arts Centre.

On Wednesday he will meet Mr Joe Clark, the leader of the Parliament. He will be accompanied for his two-day visit by Mrs Nancy Reagan, Mr Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State, and Mr Donald Regan, the Secretary of the Treasury.

The last American president to visit Canada was Mr Richard Nixon and that was nearly 10 years ago. Former President Carter was *planning* to go to Ottawa during the closing stages of his presidency, but his visit was postponed because of the Iranian hostage crisis.

Although Mr Reagan and Mr Trudeau hold different political beliefs, the White House has great hopes that the two men will get on.

As Mr Reagan explained during a press conference last week, his main goal is to set the stage for ministerial *negotiations on the difficult issues* which divide their countries. In this he hopes to be as successful as he was when he got on so well with President José López Portillo, of Mexico, just before he took office.

Baby heart surgery

Johannesburg, March 9.—South African surgeons today carried out a successful open-heart operation on a baby girl who was less than 24 hours old. Dr Peter Colsen said he and his colleagues operated to

Two generals dropped in Zia reshuffle of Cabinet

From Hasan Akhtar
Islamabad, March 9

President Zia ul-Haq of Pakistan changed his martial law Cabinet today, retaining eight of his previous ministers and adding 11 new names to double the Cabinet strength.

He also nominated three Ministers of State, five advisers with ministerial status and six advisers with Minister of State status.

The ministers dropped are Lieutenant-General Ghulam Hasan Khan and Major-General Shahid Hamid, both of whom were already retired from the army. There are now only three serving officers in the new Government.

Several important politicians *who were tipped for places in* the Cabinet were passed over. Leaders of several right-wing parties generally favouring President Zia declined to join his Government unless present curbs on political activity and press were relaxed.

They were told that the new Government would be a step toward the transfer of power from the armed forces to civilian representatives.

But the new Cabinet does include some senior party officials of the late Mr Bhutto, including Mr Muhammad Abbas former Major-General Jamal Dar, who was a Minister of State, and Mr Raja Sikander Zaman, a well-known Pakistan People's Party leader from North-West Frontier province.

President Zia told reporters after installing the fourth government in his rule of three *and a half years that he recog*nized his was not a representative government.

But he claimed it was a good government which would serve the people and said he remained committed to the eventual transfer of power to a civilian government. He also said, however, that elections now would be disastrous.

The Cabinet is as follows: **FOREIGN AFFAIRS:** Agha Shahi. **DEFENCE:** Ali Ahmed Talpur. **CULTURE, SPORTS AND TOURISM:** Arbab Niaz Mohammad. **INDUSTRY:** Elahi Bux Soomro. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:** Mr Fakhar Imam. **LABOUR, MANPOWER AND OVERSEAS PAKISTANIS:** Ghulam Dastgir Khan. **FINANCE AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS:** Ghulam Ishaq Khan. **HOUSING AND WORKS:** Air Marshal Inamul Haque Khan. **KASHMIR AFFAIRS AND NORTHERN AFFAIRS:** Major-General Jamal Dar. **INTERIOR:** Mahmoud A. Haroon. **MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO:** Abdul Muhammad Abbas Khan Abbasi. **EDUCATION:** Mohammad Ali Khan. **FOOD, AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATIVES:** Vice-Admiral Muhammad Fazl Janjua. **COMMUNICATIONS:** Mohyuddin Baluch. **HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE:** Dr Nasir ud-Din Jogezai. **WATER AND POWER:** Raja Sikandar Zaman. **PETROLEUM AND NATURAL RESOURCES:** Major-General Rao Farman Ali Khan. **PRODUCTION, DIVISION AND NATIONAL LOGISTIC BOARD:** [illegible]

Rugby Union

Blakeway's future is clouded by a doctors' divergence

By Peter West
Rugby Correspondent

Philip Blakeway, the England tight-head prop who suffered a neck injury in the Irish match, reported yesterday morning that his surgeon in Gloucester had given him clearance to play against France in the last championship international at Twickenham on Saturday week. However, the national selectors stuck to their declared intention of leaving his position open when announcing an otherwise unchanged side.

The medical evidence about Blakeway *seems conflicting*. It appears that the Irish doctor, Mick Molloy (a former Ireland lock forward), who made a preliminary examination in Dublin, advised him to pack in rugby for good. This was based on a belief that the tight-head position imposes the greatest strain on the neck—and Blakeway had broken a bone there some years ago, causing him a long absence from the game.

Yet Blakeway's surgeon in Gloucester has compared the latest X-rays with those of his previous, more alarming injury, and told *him that the pinched nerve* suffered in Dublin had much the same effect as a blow on the funny bone.

It is not surprising that "Budge" Rogers, the chairman of selectors, insists that before any decision is made by his panel he must have a long talk with the RFU's honorary doctor, Leon Walkden. "It is the nature of Blakeway's injury that concerns us," Rogers said yesterday. "His history of neck injuries must be cause for concern both for him and for everyone else. Even if he wants to play in the French match we should have to consider the wisdom of it very seriously indeed."

There is no doubt that Dr Walkden's views would need to be unreservedly in favour of Blakeway's playing before the selectors took such action. An impression remains that they will end up choosing another tighthead prop and may announce his identity when they name the six reserves next Monday.

Mr Rogers said he had been *delighted by the gritty performance* of the England forwards in Dublin, in spite of their difficulties at the scrummage when Blakeway went off. "The control at wheeled scrums got better and better," he added, "and there was never the semblance of a hiccup between Steve Smith and John Scott.

"The concentration was first class during that intensive period of Irish pressure towards the end. The skipper set a tremendous example as always. Everybody kept cool. Nick Jeavons, in virtually his first international, did extremely well against such opposition."

It certainly was a day to have knowing, experienced hands in crucial positions, such as scrum-half and No 8. The strength and commitment of Jeavons, who played only 10 minutes of the Scottish game, augered well for the future.

So, too, did the efforts of a back division which is now winning matches on limited possession, as the chairman pointed out. "They are getting more and more confident, and really enjoying themselves", he said. "Their talents are blossoming, and they are getting results from things they have worked on in training. The second try, by Paul Dodge, started with Marcus Rose a long way back, but Huw Davies and the others were all there in support.

"If the match had been played two years ago, I think we'd have lost it. I don't fancy we would have come from behind as we did in very difficult circumstances on this occasion. Now we have the confidence which helps to eliminate mistakes, and we know what we are capable of. The next task is to re-establish another really solid forward platform."

Looking forward to the French game Mr Rogers said that England had a good track record against them at Twickenham. "Their style of play now suits us well. If we can dump them on the deck, and tighten up in one or two areas, we'll win."

It has been established by the RFU that at least 1,000 forged ground tickets, and excellent forgeries at that, are circulating in France, with many of them already sold at inflated prices. The Union has told the French Federation that it has purchased a number of machines to check validity of tickets at the turnstiles. No one with forged tickets will get in, so the entente may not be too cordiale.

ENGLAND (v France at Twickenham, March 21): W. M. H. Rose (Cambridge University); J. Carleton (Orrell), P. W. Dodge (Leicester), C. R. Woodward (Leicester), M. A. C. Slemen (Liverpool); G. H. Davies (Cambridge University), S. J. Smith (Sale); C. E. Smart (Newport), P. J. Wheeler (Leicester), A. N. Other, W. B. Beaumont (Fylde), M. J. Colclough (Angoulême), N. C. Jeavons (Moseley), J. P. Scott (Cardiff), D. H. Cooke (Harlequins).

O'Reilly backs SA tour

By Peter West

Tony O'Reilly, the former Ireland and British Lions three-quarter, came out strongly over the weekend in favour of the Irish rugby tour to South Africa in May.

"It is unfair that rugby players should carry a political burden", he declared. "Irish rugby has always stood together. Let us now go to South Africa to play the game we love without apology to anybody."

O'Reilly was speaking in Dublin at the twenty-fifth anniversary dinner of the Wolfhounds Rugby Football Club, which was founded as a touring side in 1956. The evening, felicitously presided over by Karl Mullen, a former Lions captain, was lit by two characteristically brilliant speeches—one by O'Reilly and the other by Cliff Morgan.

A special Wolfhounds' award, presented for the first time for exceptional services to the game in Ireland, was given to Dr Bob O'Connell, for many years honorary doctor to the Irish Rugby Union.

Rugby League

Coaches favour fewer up and fewer down

By Keith Macklin

*The present promotion and rele*gation system of four up and four down came under fire at the weekend from 28 of the 31 coaches and coaching directors of Rugby League's first and second division clubs. After a highly successful coaching conference at Carnegie College, Leeds, the 28 coaches who attended — Keighley, Huyton and Swinton were absent — called upon the Rugby League Council to abandon the four up and four down system and replace it with two up and two down.

The demand was unanimous without a trace of a dissentient voice. The coaches said that the present system discouraged open and adventurous play, with teams scrambling for points and often adopting safety first measures

In addition, coaches were afraid to blood inexperienced young players because vital points might be lost through inexperience. A further argument in favour of two up and two down was that there are several yo-yo teams in the two divisions who move regularly up and down

There is bound to be some resistance to the two up and two down proposals. One advantage of the present system is that at the end of the season as many as eight teams can be fighting either to avoid relegation or to win promotion, and this makes for important games and exciting matches, holding interest to the last.

The England selectors make five changes in the team to play Wales at Craven Park, Hull, on March 18 in the final game of the European Championship. Paul Harkin, the Hull Kingston Rovers scrum-half wins his first full cap, his Hull KR colleagues, Holdstock and Casey, will be the prop forwards and Patterson, of Workington Town, moves up from substitute forward into the second row.

Norton (Hull) replaces Pinner (St. Helens) at loose forward, and others to drop out are Walker (Whitehaven), O'Neill (Wigan) and Case (Warrington), the last-named because of injury. A first step towards the big time is made by the young Castleford forward, David Finch, who is chosen as reserve to travel.

TEAM: Fairbairn (Wigan, Capt); Drummond (Leigh), Joyner (Castleford), Smith (Hull KR), Fenton (Castleford); Kelly (Warrington), Harkin (Hull KR); Holdstock (Hull KR), Ward (Leeds), Casey (Hull KR), Potter (Warrington), Pattinson (Workington Town), Norton (Hull). Substitutes: Woods (Leigh), Adams (Widnes).

Boxing

Boza-Edwards to defend against Chacon

Stockton, California, March 9.—The London-based Ugandan, Cornelius Boza-Edwards, who won the World Boxing Council (WBC) super-featherweight championship here yesterday, will make his first defence against Bobby Chacon, an American, his manager Mickey Duff said.

After Boza-Edwards had outpointed the Mexican title-holder, Rafael Limon, Mr Duff said he would put the championship at stake against Chacon, the No 1 *challenger, as ordered by the* WBC, on a date yet to be fixed. Mr Duff also threw out a challenge on Boza-Edwards's behalf to Salvador Sanchez of Mexico, holder of the WBC featherweight title.

Boza-Edwards dealt confidently with the big-hitting Limon in yesterday's battle of two southpaws. He proved superior in stand-up exchanges sought by the champion, whom he put down with a left hook in the fifth round.

Limon tired as the bout progressed and the durable Boza-Edwards, growing in confidence as he tightened his control on the contest, was full value for the unanimous points verdict.

Obisia Nwankpah, of Nigeria, beat the No 2 contender for the WBC super lightweight title, Juan Jose Gimenez of Argentina, in an official elimination bout in Lagos. Nwankpah, previously ranked sixth in line for a chance at Saoul Mamby's title, beat Gimenez on points over 12 rounds.

Also in Lagos, Langton Tinago of Zimbabwe, retained his Commonwealth lightweight title, beatin gthe former champion, Hogan Jimoh of Nigeria, who was stupped

Skiing

Miss McKinney on crash course to title

Aspen, Colorado, March 8.—Tamara McKinney, of the United States, won a women's giant slalom on Aspen mountain today and moved closer to an overall World Cup triumph in the discipline. She had a fine second run and overtook Erika Hess, of Switzerland, and Wanda Bieler, of Italy, who were first and second after the opening run.

The second course was much straighter than the first, with times generally over 10 seconds quicker. Miss McKinney took full advantage of the change and beat Miss Hess by more than three-quarters of a second. Her aggregate time was 2 min 23.59sec, with Miss Hess second in 2min 24.09sec and Miss Bieler fading to third place with 2min 25.16sec. Perrine Pelen, of France, was fourth, just ahead of Cindy Nelson.

The victory swelled Miss McKinney's giant slalom total to 100 points, 18 more than Marie-Therese Nadig, of Switzerland, who finished seventeenth. Minutes before the event Miss McKinney was sent crashing into soft snow after almost colliding with a snow grooming vehicle. She seemed shaken and had difficulty establishing a rhythm on the first run. She had no such problems on her second stage.

GIANT SLALOM: 1, T. McKinney (US), 2min 23.59sec; 2, E. Hess (Switzerland), 2:24.09; 3, W. Bieler (Italy), 2:25.16; 4, P. Pelen (France), 2:25.86; 5, C. Nelson (US), 2:26.20; 6, T. Haecher (WG), 2:26.40.

GIANT SLALOM STANDINGS: 1, McKinney, 100 pts; 2, M-T. Nadig (Switzerland), 82; 3, I. Epple (WG), 68; 4, Pelen, 60; 5, M. Epple (WG), 56.

WORLD CUP STANDINGS: 1, Nadig, 275; 2, Hess, 215; 3, Wenzel (Liech-

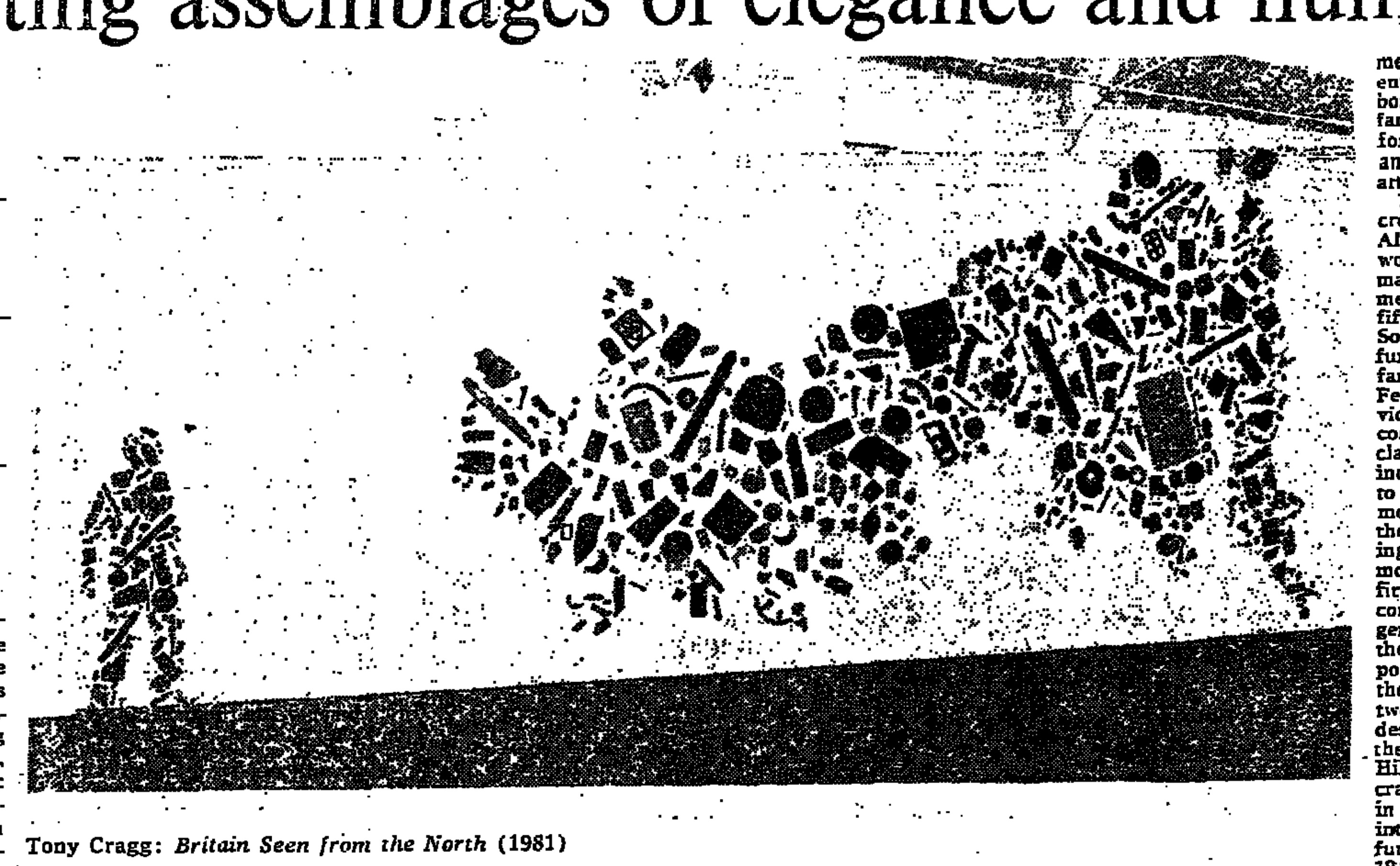
Contrasting assemblages of elegance and humour

Joseph Cornell/ Tony Cragg
Whitechapel Gallery

Continuous Creation
Serpentine Gallery

Hille: 75 Years of British Furniture
Victoria and Albert

A Handful of History
Austin Reed, Regent Street



Tony Cragg: *Britain Seen from the North* (1981)

Despite all the oddities we were called upon to accept in the name of art during the 1970s there is still, I think, some mistrust of the assemblage. Putting things together, it is argued, may be a nice secondary artistic pursuit, akin to mounting exhibitions or covering screens with scrapbook oddments, but it cannot be taken quite so seriously as actually making things yourself. There is a certain amount of truth in this, but the fact remains that the art of assemblage, like its close relative, the art of collage, is so easy that its triumphs are correspondingly rarer, depending on extreme self-discipline (since there are few outside considerations to discipline you), the utmost refinement of taste and sense of proportion, and of course, not least, that great imponderable, talent.

Which is where Joseph Cornell comes in. If he ever actually drew or carved or moulded anything himself, the organizers of the big retrospective I wrote about last year from the Museum of Modern Art, New York (and the abbreviated version now in Whitechapel) do not seem to have uncovered it. True, he first experimented with batik in the 1920s, and did some abstract textile designs in the 1930s, but from the start he seems to have been fascinated above all by that sense of dislocation the Surrealists strove for in their paintings and "objects". And since he was from a child a great hoarder and accumulator, rescuing and treasuring fragments of the strange and the everyday (rendered stranger by its separation from its normal contexts), it was only natural that he should find some way of preserving and displaying these talismanic materials. In the process, he hit upon his own art-form: his boxes.

These delicate assemblages (their physical delicacy is one reason that the show has been drastically pared down to cross the Atlantic) are mostly vertical, glass-fronted shadow-boxes of sensible domestic size—much the frontal proportions of your average oil paintings—which create within them their own tiny cosmos. A prim bachelor all his life, devout Christian Scientist, inseparable from his family of brother and sisters, he nevertheless allows his coat to trail—if not exactly wearing his heart on his sleeve—in his artworks. He was fascinated by opera and ballet, and had an ideal devotion to pretty young actresses and dancers: hence the large number of boxes evoking the great nineteenth-century dancers like Taglioni through period engravings and feathers and sequins and costume jewelry, or specific ballets, like *La Sylphide*, or modern singers and their roles, like Anna Moffo in *Lucia*. He also found birds, particularly the parrot family, of absorbing interest, was fascinated by stargazing and amateur astronomy, and loved the idea of multiplying images from the old masters in romantic or sometimes ironic combination.

The odd and unexpected thing about Cornell, as shown at the Whitechapel Art Gallery (until April 12), is that through all his manipulation of found materials something inescapably individual always emerges. He has the most precise, impeccable sense of colour and texture, and his miniature worlds behind or under glass are strictly ruled by their own laws of proportion and degree. There is a lot of nostalgic grace and charm about them, but they are never loose or sentimental: the artist one could most nearly compare him with is Ravel, with his invariable rule of "complexe, mais pas compliqué". The qualities of elegance and humour are equally apparent in the many collages, mostly from his later years, when he could throw things delightfully, teasingly off-balance by just the tiniest modification of pictures drawn from Victorian engraving or modern colour magazines, so that it takes a moment or two to work out just exactly what is strange about the Magritte with an attendant angel or the lady with a tiny greyhound perched on her fan. Certainly, once one has been lured into Cornell's boxes of delights it is hard altogether to escape them.

Upstairs at the Whitechapel, until March 22, is the work of a very different assembler, Tony Cragg. He works on a large, sometimes a very large, scale, using found objects of coloured plastic or metal. There is a lot of humour and charm in his work also, and a refined sense of colour: he likes to put together in patterns objects of all one colour. In his show at the Arnolfini last year the patterns were abstract, one big installation being of pure black and white, another almost entirely red. Here he goes in for more representational works affixed to the walls: a crown in white, a Union Jack in the expected colours, a man of England tilted on its side. There is much ingenuity at work, and one gets the feeling that he finds creation fun.

There is not too much fun apparent at the Serpentine, where under the general title *Continuous Creation* four artists (if you count Bruce Lacey and his wife Jill Bruce as one) have been let loose until March 29 to create their own room-environments. It transpires that the creation is rather more continuous than the organizers bargained for: one of Robert Filliou's pieces has been held up by the Customs, understandably dubious what to make of it, and has been replaced by sundry improvised substitutes, including one that requires us to participate by whistling into a microphone; and Paul Thek, who is in charge of the entrance hall, keeps changing his mind and adding and subtracting ideas, so that only the suggestion of Tatlin's tower in the centre remains constant. One has, I suppose, to admire the application with which Anna Oppermann brings together snowdrifts of papers and pictures and materials of all kinds to tell us something (obscure) about the affections—tinted reddish—and other aspects of life and death, but the result seems to be a lot of finnicky effort to very little effect. At least the Lacey contribution, a tangle of branches and farm implements and photographs of their seasonal rituals (not to mention horse manure reverently enshrined in a plastic box), all to conjure up their farm-year close to the elemental forces, is more evidently dotty and therefore much more attractive.

Elements of assemblage also crop up in the Victoria and Albert show devoted to the work of the London furniture manufacturers Hille, in commemoration of their seventy-fifth anniversary (until May 31). Sometimes it is actually in the furniture itself, like Robin Day's famous butterfly cabinet from Festival year, its decoration provided by six glazed portholes containing real butterflies (a classic piece of Fifties nostalgia, incidentally, which is beginning to look pretty good again). But more notably it is in the way the more recent furniture, starting with the long inescapable moulded polypropylene chair first marketed in 1962, can be combined and stacked and generally put together to suit the owner's specific needs. The polypropylene chair is one of the most famous and durable twentieth-century furniture designs, but a major interest of the show is to see just how Hille got there, by way of well-crafted reproduction furniture in the 1900s, discreet forays into deco in the 1930s, and further backward-looking in the 1940s, as the only viable alternative to producing, horror of horrors, Utility.

Another practical show which I must recommend to you for its quite unfunctional delights is improbably ensconced on the ground floor of Austin Reed, Regent Street, until March 17. It is called *A Handful of History*, and is made up of gloves from the Spence Collection now in the Museum of London, which does not, as a rule, have space to display most of them. But they are well worth looking at for other than historical reasons: the variety of invention and design within this, one might think, rather limited genre is truly amazing, what with the elaborately punched and rosetted gloves of the sixteenth century, the elegantly printed neo-classical gloves of the late eighteenth century, the beadwork and metal-thread embroidery and lace, the gloves for state occasion and for children hardly out of their cradles. And I suspect that Joseph Cornell would have killed for any item from the collection to embellish one of his boxes even more richly and strangely.

John Russell Taylor

Book review

Clans and Chiefs

By Ian Grimble

(*Blond & Briggs, £10.95*)

The Scots were never conquered by their king, as the English were at Hastings. So, although Edward I tactlessly hammered Scotland into becoming one of Europe's earliest conscious nation states, the Scots never acknowledged even parliamentary sovereignty as capable of being absolute. Thus Scotland was virtually a federation: and it was not thought selfish but politic that the highland Clans and lowland Names under their own chiefs were accustomed to settling their own affairs locally, with the minimum of interference from the central government.

But Scotland contained two cultures, and, as in the English treatment of Ireland, the central government couldn't let well alone. Dr Grimble enlists our sympathy as he unfolds government's deliberate erosion of the highlanders' Celtic culture—though he is rather unfair in describing St Margaret's sons as usurpers: when their turn came they simply put an end to our archaic royal custom of predecessor-slaying by eliminating all potential challengers, as a prelude to bringing Scotland into line with Western Europe. He tells how, instead of letting the Isles get on happily with running the Isles, our Stewart kings set up the Campbell earls of Argyll in the west and the gey Gordon earls of Huntly in the east as royal Lieutenants to "civilize" the Highlands. And, in this context, it's sufficient to observe that "gey" does not mean gay but ferocious.

Fitted into the general tale, Grimble makes vivid thumbnail sketches of the various clans. Although the gist is usually correct, they are sometimes perhaps too compressed: thus Gillechattan means Devotee of St Chattan rather than "Cat-child", though the wild-cat emblem indeed united Clan Chattan, nor was Gillechattan the toshach (ie thane) from whom The Mackintosh takes his name: while it was not a Dutch prime minister but his son who succeeded to the chiefship of Mackay.

His main theme, however, is a moving lament for the lost Celtic world of the Highlands, and yet at the same time an ironic paean that the emigrant Gaels' clinging together in all sorts of weather in clan societies overseas has Celticized all Scotland in the eyes of the world so that it has managed to "finally transform Edinburgh itself into the seat of pibroch, a centre of Gaelic learning, the tartan-bedecked stage for the annual military tattoo of the Highland regiments".

In this, he is perhaps less than generous to the statesmanship of George IV and Walter Scott. For between the highlanders and the London government the ghost of 1745 and Quebec had led to a mutual respect, on "if you can't beat 'em join 'em" lines, that owed nothing to the respectable North British culture of Edinburgh itself. No Sovereign had set foot in Scotland between 1651 and 1822, and when the great day of reconciliation came at last, it was Dr Grimble's highlanders the king came to celebrate—to receive the toast of "Chief of Chiefs" from the chief of our most persecuted clan, MacGregor of MacGregor, and royally clad Himself in the unique garb that the world had come to associate irrevocably with Scotland.

Iain Moncreiffe

Shura Cherkassky
Festival Hall

Joan Chissell

Deputizing at short notice for the indisposed Emil Gilels on Sunday afternoon, Shura Cherkassky turned his back on the promised programme of Beethoven in favour of a pianistic bonanza after his own heart. In terms of technical panache, sumptuous sonority and limitless variety of colour, few artists now before the public could have done it more justice.

A Russian himself, Mr Cherkassky divided his second half between Rachmaninov and Stravinsky, ending with one of his old favourites, the Three Movements from *Petroushka* specially arranged by the composer for Artur Rubinstein (at a price of 5,000 francs, as the programme-note writer reminded us). His account of it has always been a *tour de force*, on Sunday it seemed even more audaciously brilliant than ever. The sheer fullness of sound in the fun of the fair, achieved without any thickening, suggested 20 fingers at work, while no orchestral instruments could have coloured individual strands more vividly. No matter how petulant the tune, or with what percussive bite chords were wrenched from the piano, Mr Cherkassky miraculously never went through his tone.

Rachmaninov's so-called Corelli Variations (the theme is in fact a traditional Portuguese dance) again found him at his fanciful best, now seductively lyrical, now capriciously scintillating, with every decorative detail and counter-theme uncommonly telling because of his crystalline clarity of texture. After such piquantly contrasted characterization, the quiet coda suggested the mysterious bewilderment of waking after a fantastic dream.

From the nineteenth century, Mr Cherkassky chose Liszt's B minor sonata. This performance, too, revealed him as a virtuoso of the first order dissolving every technical hurdle into child's play. It was perhaps even more memorable for the glorious sonority he drew from the keyboard, in saturated chordal climaxes and succulent cantabile in particular. Yet ardent as it was, I found it a pianistically rather than intellectually or architecturally conceived reading, with many little details of phrasing and timing over-impulsive, insufficiently weighed and laden. At the end there was not that feeling of having undergone a profound spiritual experience such as created by artists like Arrau or Brendel, Curzon or Kempff.

Five little dance movements by Lully served as curtain-raiser, the final gigue perhaps a trifle fast for the period, but with cantabile in slower tempo as liquid and utterly ravishing as it was (along with much else) in Chopin's F sharp major Impromptu chosen as first encore.

Cockroach Trilogy
Lyric Studio

Ned Chaillet

Before *The Cockroach Trilogy* moved into Hammersmith's Lyric Studio to unwind in separate parts on separate evenings, the entire visionary cycle was performed in one day at the Scala Cinema. As a theatrical experience it was rather more than a rarity, with all three plays featuring a single actor who also happens to be the author, although he plays and writes under different names. I can vouch for the quality of the first two full-length monologues, and hope to see the third in Hammersmith, but I had better say that I think it is a rather special audience that Alan Williams writes for, and for whom Alan Aldred performs.

It is probably a larger audience than the regular theatregoing crowd, although his spectators would have been found regularly at the Round House or the Arts Lab in Drury Lane during the 1960s. He creates a character who is speaking for the high-hopers and no-hopers of the counter-culture, for the acid rockers who could find cosmic significance in Bob Dylan's most strained rhyme and who suspected that the rock group Ultimate Spinach held the key to the universe. But he speaks strangely, as an acid casualty who resents that his blend of drugs, idealism and music never survived into the 1970s.

There is a horrible comic prescience to his first play, *The Cockroach that Ate Cincinatti*, as he was performing in 1979 and the character has a vision of going after George Harrison with a gun, "without emotion". By being faithful to the alternative philosophy of the psychedelic generation, his character, the science-fictional "cockroach" of the title, sees himself as a man like Charles Manson, "the executor of the unfinished business of 1968". He speaks obsessively, with intense, savage wit, as he repeatedly pulls out his shirt-tails and shoves them back in his trousers; and, for all his affable comedy, it is reassuring that he speaks from a psychiatric hospital.

In the second play, *The Return of the Cockroach*, he is free and more reasonable, still nursing a dangerous edge but now fearing that he will be killed by a rock star, by the Bee Gees disguised as picadors. Mr Williams again turns a devastating clarity on the pop culture, contrasting the biography of failed Marxist punk rockers with the poverty of middlebrow art in *Apocalypse Now*, and sustaining his characterization with assured control.

Mike Bradwell has directed the performances for the Hull Truck Theatre Company with just as much intimacy as the madness permits, and it stays funny however horrific the ideas. There may be difficulties in the third part, *The Cockroach has Landed*, which was written after John Lennon's murder, but I trust that Mr Williams knows his subject well enough to go gently into the mad act that he foreshadowed. He has a remarkable vision.

Mauricio Kagel
ICA

William Mann

Progressive music of our time is much peopled by rogue elephants, and Mauricio Kagel would, I am sure, be quite upset if I did not include him among them. Many of those *épater-bourgeois* and "Etonne moi, Jeon" merchants are transparently bogus, as a week at a festival of new music will, slowly and painfully, prove to the keenest and most patient enthusiast. One work by Kagel in such a *galère* will just as quickly demonstrate that his wildest flights of fancy are completely *echt*. When he goes over the top, which is regularly, it is always to some human and musical purpose, even when his experiments do not result in valuable discoveries.

Kagel has lived and worked in Cologne since 1957 (he was born in Buenos Aires in 1932) and is esteemed in Germany, but his works are not much performed here, perhaps because we expect vanguard composers to be not only challenging but deadly serious, which Kagel sometimes is not.

One up to the Institute of Contemporary Arts in London, who devoted Sunday's recital to Kagel's music and began the programme with that sextet, only the fifth of his works which he now acknowledges. The vividness of string sound produced by an expanded Arditti Quartet more than lived up to score-reading memories: I had forgotten how strongly the initial ideas are kept alive and growing, background for a melody which may remain unheard, though in the last section it does materialize.

Soon after that, Kagel espoused the drama of live music-making, and put other composers in his debt. This recital proceeded to his *Generalbass* (in English "Thoroughbass"), played on the cello here by Rohan de Saram with a finesse and affection that may have confirmed respect for Kagel more than involvement in the wider emotional scope he sought to inspire.

After that came his first string quartet, which examines the private drama of four expert individual string players who decide to pool their own personalities into a larger corporate artistic organization. They move round the platform, sitting near or far from one another, playing all the time, sometimes contributing vocally to the music.

After the interval came Kagel's *Phonophonie*, which consists of four short solo scenes for an elderly Victorian opera singer, the text in German and English seldom intelligible, the sung music a shroud of its former self, the lament of an eloquence now almost inarticulate.

Kagel designed it for a baritone, and so I have heard it. At the ICA the protagonist was the American soprano Beth Griffith, already a Kagel specialist; she used costume (black bodice with suspender-belt and stockings) to feminize and enhance the allure of the singer—lovely for us in the audience, less so for the piece, which is about a physical decline that nobody could genuinely believe in, cleverly as she portrayed her tragic heroine.

Some of the reviews on this page are reprinted from yesterday's later editions

Millie Jackson
Apollo Victoria

Richard Williams

Only Millie Jackson, I think, could draw unanimous applause from a racially mixed audience by not only chiding the black boys who had brought white girls ("After 400 years of trying to get our hands on their money, you want to go and give it back?") but also roundly insulting the whites for their proverbial clumsiness on the dance floor (and, by implication, in the bedroom).

On second thoughts, perhaps Richard Pryor could bring it off; but, unlike Miss Jackson, he is not also among the dozen or so best soul singers in the world. Probably Bette Midler is a better object of comparison, but whereas Miss Midler directs her squibs at herself, in a form of inverted self-flattery or at third parties, Miss Jackson's blow-torch wit makes us *chuckle* happily at our own frailties. The effect is genuinely liberating.

She was not in her very best voice at the first of Sunday's two concerts. Several songs had passed before her robust contralto had assumed its full mobility and volume, and she may have been holding a little in reserve throughout. The repertoire, too, left something to be desired: her treatments of Rod Stewart's "Passion" and Stevie Wonder's "Let's Get Serious" were serviceable but undistinguished.

We did, though, hear two of her fine adaptations of country music in Merle Haggard's "If You're Not Back in Love by Monday" and Tom Jans's "Loving Arms". She has now taken sole possession of the latter, and built into it a very funny new monologue concerning the anticlimactic experience involved in enticing a comely fan back to her hotel room after the show. Her other extended discourse came during "I Had to Say It", wherein she lampooned the banalities of the rap-disco style, with which she has few affinities.

The unbridled salacity of these monologues is, for many people, her chief attraction, and they are delivered with such a wonderful comic timing (abetted by her marvellous band) and such large doses of self-deflation that no one could reasonably take offence. It will take an unusually imaginative television producer, not to say a courageous one, to offer her the kind of wider exposure which Michael Parkinson has given to Bette Midler, but that producer will be rewarded with a sensation.

A brave attempt to put Italian ballet back on the map

Undici onde
La Fenice, Venice

John Percival

Carolyn Carlson

Where would ballet be without the Italians? They invented the famous 32 *fouettés*, still the surest show-stopper in the whole bag of technical tricks, and they developed the point shoe that made it possible. Among dancers, you need only recite the names of the great romantic ballerinas: Cerrito, Grisi, Taglioni, and then later Brianza and Legnani, who danced the premieres of, respectively, *The Sleeping Beauty* and *Swan Lake*.

The early pages of dance history books are full of Italian names. They wrote the first dance manuals: Italian courts had their ballets before the French took them up; they gave the world Blasis and Cecchetti among the great teachers, Galeotti and Vigano among choreographers. Although discredited now, *Excelsior*, created at La Scala, was one of the most successful ballets ever made.

Yet it has to be admitted that, for quite a time, Italian ballet has been in the doldrums. Four or five Italian dancers today rank well in the international circuit of guest stars, but the significant point is that they have to work abroad because opportunities at home are limited. And if ballet is hard pressed in the land that helped give it birth, modern dance of any standard hardly exists there at all.

It is clear, consequently, that Italo Gomez, the new artistic director of the Teatro la Fenice, Venice, has taken on a daunting task in trying to build up the dance activity there. Already, in his first season, he has taken two initiatives. One is to persuade the city council to sponsor a big dance festival which will be held, under the auspices of La Fenice, during the first three months of July.

Noting that most summer festivals are dominated by American companies, he has decided to concentrate exclusively on aspects of the dance in western Europe during this century, with a backward look at the Bournonville tradition for background. Ballet Rambert and the Scottish Ballet are expected to represent Britain; companies from Belgium, France, Germany and Spain are among those already signed.

Signor Gomez hopes to offer a choice of about three performances every day, plus film shows, exhibitions (one on Kurt Jooss, another on Picasso), classes and a seminar. Several theatres will be used, some of them out of doors, and Maurice Béjart has undertaken to create a work to be performed actually on the Grand Canal.

The aim, if all goes well, is to organize a dance festival every other year, alternating with the Biennale. That is a bold ambition but, as if it were not enough, its author has also taken on the task of trying to establish a modern dance tradition in Italy.

For that purpose he snapped up the services of Carolyn Carlson when Bernard Lefort, the new director of the Paris Opera, decided not to continue the experimental group she ran there for six years during the Liebermann regime. There, she worked with actors as well as dancers, but in Venice her assignment was specifically to form a dance group.

She brought with her two dancers with whom she had worked before: Larrio Ekson, who like Carlson is American, and Jorma Uotinen from Finland, the country of Carlson's own ancestors. The other six dancers in the new company are all Italian, in their early twenties, chosen at open auditions.

The first production of Carlson's Teatro Danza La Fenice is *Undici Onde*, premiered not in the opera house itself but in the Teatro Molibran which has been taken over as a *Spazio danza*. Backstage facilities seem primitive, but it offers a reasonably-sized stage, and I imagine that the boxes and upper tiers provide a better view than the stalls, where visibility is impeded because the floor is flat and the seats placed exactly one behind another.

The "11 waves" which gave Carlson her title are to be understood metaphorically, even metaphysically. Pages from her working notes, reproduced in the programme book, identify them with "time progressions of yin-yang polarities", expressed in terms of sequences of busy activity arising from quieter passages and subsiding again.

Carlson, in a white dress and wig of long white hair, repeatedly climbs a framework of wooden steps, lies on her back at the top, then slips down again. In the early part of the work there are only three steps but progressively larger frames are used later. I imagine we are meant to understand her as reflecting on her past, and at times two of the other dancers, Luisa Casiraghi and Francesca Bertolli, seem to embody aspects of her remembered youth with which she still identifies.

Further symbolism is introduced with the small model of a ship which one of the men occasionally wears on one shoulder, and with the sheets of clear plastic material, loosely crumpled around their feet, on which several of the cast sometimes shuffle about. Caterina Sagna at one point has a solo in which she mimes such activities as brushing hair, cleaning teeth and reading a newspaper.

As you would expect with the underlying imagery of waves, the structure of the work is episodic, with much repetition. It seems to me that Carlson and Murray Louis, who both danced in Alwin Nikolais's company, have each picked up from him a tendency towards that way of working. Nikolais diversifies his simple choreography with lighting effects that would make anything more elaborate out of place. Louis enriches the patterns with a rich invention of quirky movement. Carlson's choreography remains stark to the point of bareness.

Those who are in sympathy with Carlson's way of working find it full of poetic resonance. I have to confess that it does little for me. The intention is a wholesome naivety, but I find that it lands somewhere nearer to Patience Strong than to Blake. No doubt most of the audience, who stood cheering at the end, would say that is my loss.

At least the length of the work, two acts of about an hour each, offers plenty of opportunity to assess the company. Carlson has chosen and trained them well so that they perform with unity and conviction. Raffaella Giordano particularly impressed me by the quiet concentration of her movements.

The score by Jean Schwarz and René Aubry ranges from folksy songs through atmospheric guitar music to recorded sounds of seashore noises, a train and so on, the everyday sounds marking the troughs of the waves. It is apt enough, though never intrinsically very interesting, and provides an accompaniment rather than a base for the dancing. Peter Vos's floods and beams of light, sometimes picking dancers unexpectedly out of the darkness, provide the only decor and prevent you from noticing how bare the stage is.

هكذا من الأصل

Tennis

Computer scheme is a nation-wide incentive for singles

By Rex Bellamy
Tennis Correspondent

Britain's admirably surprising Davis Cup win over Italy was not the only exciting tennis news to emerge from Brighton at the weekend. The tie coincided with a press conference convened to launch what will be known as the National Tennis Singles League, a competition that will be administered from one of the sunniest stretches of England's coast.

The scheme is based on a partnership between Clay Iles, of Eastbourne, a coach who was formerly one of Britain's leading players, and Keith Wallace, a Brighton advertising agent. An inanimate but essential component of the organization will be a computer at Shoreham.

The thinking behind this unusual and bold venture is trenchantly summarized by Iles, a mild-mannered but articulately imaginative man who considers that genuine competition at "grass roots" level is the crux of any sport and that there is not enough of it in British tennis. Treading more controversial ground, he is convinced that clubs put too much emphasis on social doubles, that four players tend to be given priority over two, when seeking court time, and that this preferential treatment of doubles is harmful to tennis in general. The new competition, he says, "is an attempt to redress the balance between lingering memories of tea party tennis and what ought to be a modern, physical, competitive exercise".

There is nothing wrong with doubles (or for that matter tea parties) and it is relevant to point out that Britain's doubles pair provided the elusive key to success against Italy. But Iles is justified in suggesting that lower down the competitive scale there is too much emphasis on doubles.

In any case, an expansion of competitive singles play would obviously encourage the game's development—and that sums up the means and the ends of the new competition.

The NTSL is designed to stimulate a more competitive attitude at all levels by encouraging singles competition throughout the year. Players of every standard are welcome. They will be organized in six age groups, from children under 10 at one extreme to pensioners at the other.

Players will compete exclusively at singles in divisions of six, arranging their own matches, with a two-up and two-down system of promotion and relegation. A computer will assess results and produce rankings. Players will be able to advance from local competition to wider county, regional, and national challenges.

A pilot tournament in Sussex has persuaded more than 700 people to play about 6,000 matches in the past four months—and has encouraged the organizers to extend the competition to England as a whole from May onwards. The other home countries will be brought in later. The competition could pay its own way, but progress will be faster if negotiations with potential sponsors are successfully concluded.

Iles and Wallace conceived the competition in April last year and their initiative gained momentum from the report of the government-appointed committee of inquiry into British tennis. In attempting to give shape and substance to the implications of that report, the Lawn Tennis Association are eager to encourage such soundly based independent initiatives as the NTSL. Let us hope that the variety of proposals for increasing indoor facilities are equally fruitful.

The address of the NTSL is PO Box 131, Brighton, BN1 1WB.

Mottram is the hero in new-look Davis Cup

Paris, March 9.—The new-style Davis Cup tournament got under way at the weekend with the world's leading nations competing in a first division contest on a knockout basis. When the seedings were made last September Italy were expected to reach the semi-final round against Argentina, with Australia and the United States making up the other semi-final tie.

A lot has happened in the world of tennis since then, notably Czechoslovakia winning the cup last December and France emerging as a potentially new force. Czechoslovakia defeated Switzerland 3—2 in Zürich, Ivan Lendl, the architect of last year's victory, conceding the dead rubber after a disagreement with the match umpire. They meet the United States in what should be a fascinating quarter-final tie in July.

Australia, without half of their Wimbledon doubles championship partnership, Paul McNamee, but with a splendid Peter McNamara, beat France 3—2 in Lyon. The French revival appears to be a fragile thing at the moment. But perhaps the biggest surprise occurred in Brighton where Britain, who finished an undistinguished fifth in the recently finished King's Cup European indoor team championship, defeated Italy, who have competed in four finals in the last five years, winning once.

Christopher Mottram was the British hero, beating Adriano Panatta and Corrado Barazzutti to total 19 singles victories in 24 Davis Cup rubbers. Yet the new doubles partnership of Jonathan Smith and Andrew Jarrett, who beat Panatta and Paolo Bertolucci, deserved as much credit.

Argentina, with Guillermo Vilas and José-Luis Clerc back in action after settling their dispute with their national association, were made to struggle to beat West Germany 3—2 in Munich. They face Romania, who beat Brazil, in the quarter-final stage.

Britain's victory gives them a match against New Zealand, 5—0 winners over South Korea, and Australia must go to Sweden to face Bjorn Borg and company. Borg did not play in Yokohama but the Swedes still beat Japan.

The American victory over Mexico in Carlsbad, California, was closer than most people would have expected. John McEnroe, the United States Open champion, won both his singles. Roscoe Tanner dropped one of his rubbers and the doubles pairing of Marty Riessen and Sherwood Stewart surprisingly lost to Raul Ramirez and Jorge Lozano.

Two new names can be pencilled in for next year's first division contest. They are Chile, who lost the 1976 final to Italy, and India.

QUARTER-FINAL PAIRINGS: Romania v Argentina, New Zealand v Britain, Sweden v Australia, United States v Czechoslovakia.

RESULTS: First round: Argentina beat West Germany 3—2 (in Munich); Romania beat Brazil 3—1 (in Timisoara); Britain beat Italy 3—2 (in Brighton); New Zealand beat South Korea 5—0 (in Seoul); Sweden beat Japan 5—0 (in Yokohama); Australia beat France 3—2 (in Lyon); Czechoslovakia beat Switzerland 3—2 (in Zurich); United States beat Mexico 3—3 (in Carlsbad).

ZONE FINALS: South America: Chile beat Colombia 3—2 (in Bogota). Asian: India beat Indonesia 3—2 (in Djakarta).—Agence France-Presse.

Miss Navratilova takes an hour to reverse trend

Los Angeles, March 9.—Martina Navratilova, the No. 1 seed, took only one hour to defeat Andrea Jaeger, 6—4, 6—0 yesterday and win the singles title in a $150,000 women's tournament here. Sue Barker, of Britain, and Ann Kiyomura beat Marita Redondo and Marcela Louie 6—1, 4—6, 6—1 to win the doubles.

Miss Navratilova, who had lost to Miss Jaeger on their last three meetings began with an ace and won the first game with another ace, the only two in the match. There were five breaks of service in the first set, which Miss Navratilova won when her opponent hit a backhand lob too long.

Miss Jaeger had broken service in the third game with a lob which landed on the baseline, but Miss Navratilova broke back in the fourth game to level the score at 2—2 and then again in the sixth with a passing shot. Miss Jaeger twice took Miss Navratilova to deuce before breaking back in the ninth game for a score of 5—4.

The second set was over in 25 minutes after Miss Navratilova took command with her serve-and-volley game. "I knew what I had to do", she said afterwards. "I had a plan which was to hit short, low balls. I didn't let her get into her rhythm." Miss Jaeger is suffering from a foot injury but said that it did not affect the result.

Miss Navratilova and Miss Jaeger are the only players to have won more than three titles on the United States women's tour this year. Miss Navratilova previously won in Cincinnati and Chicago.—AP.

SALISBURY: WCT invitational tournament (final): W. Scanlon (US) beat V. Amritraj (India), 3—6, 6—3, 6—4, 3—6, 6—4.

GRAND PRIX STANDINGS: 1, R. Tanner (US), 549 pts; 2, G. Mayer (US), 385; 3, Y. Noah (France), 375; 4, J. Connors (US), 290; 5, I. Lendl (Czechoslovakia), 276; 6, W. Fibak (Poland), 252; 7, J. Sadri (US), 194; 8, E. Teltscher (US), 190; 9, J. Kriek (SA), 186; 10, V. Gerulaitis (US), 177.

Racing

Sir Desmond is full of praise for Sedgefield

Sir Desmond Plummer, chairman of the Horserace Betting Levy Board, yesterday made his first visit to Sedgefield on a racing day and was full of praise for the improved facilities both on and off the course.

Enjoying the unaccustomed sunshine, he noted that the course had been fenced in since his last visit, and said: "Sedgefield's example proves there is a permanent place in racing for the smaller courses. Sedgefield is typical of a small course, with an active management looking after themselves."

Eve of the Budget punters had their patience taxed when a 20-1 chance, Trearnie, won the Robin Simpson Memorial Handicap Steeplechase. But then they had the satisfaction of seeing three 11-10 on favourites, Running Wild, Midnight Love and Quite A Boy, justify their status.

Trearnie, pulled up after taking the wrong course at Kelso last week, had no trouble with his bearings yesterday. He showed too much resolution on the stamina-sapping ground for Cape Felix, the evens favourite, and won by six lengths.

Sedgefield results

2.15 (2.16) CROOK HURDLE (Selling Handicap: £443: 2m)
PRETTY BOY FLOYD ch g by Saint Denys — Shanoo Lady (P. Murphy) 8-10-1
A. Springer (9-2 fav) 1
Warren Gorse ... R. Avery (3-1) 2
Faleta Prince ... P. Caldwell (15-1) 3
TOTE: Win, 30p; places, 20p, 16p, 21p. Dual F: 56p. CSF: 99p. G. Lockerbie at Middleham. 4l. 6l. Summer Saint (9-1) 4th. 13 ran. NR: Betta Courage, Willsboy.

2.45 (2.47) NORTON HURDLE (Novices: £703: 2½m)
TRUE FRIEND ch m by Bilsborrow — Admirals Rose (A. Eubank) 7-9-10 ... J. Golding (1-1) 1
Chebbie ... C. Grant (4-1) 2
Wedded Bliss Mr T. Walford (33-1) 3
TOTE: Win, 20p; places, 17p, 18p, 24p. Dual F: £1.98. CSF: £5.41. A. Eubank at Cockermouth. 2l. 4l. Cap Too (16-1) 4th. 17 ran.

3.15 (3.21) ROBIN SIMPSON CHASE (Handicap: £814: 2m)
TREARNIE br g by King Log — Lor Darnie (R. Tinniswood) 6-10-0 ...... M. Barnes (20-1) 1
Cape Felix R. Barry (evens fav) 2
Rigorous .... C. Grant (5-1) 3
TOTE: Win, 81p; places, 16p, 13p; Dual F: 93p. CSF: £3.84. T. Barnes, at Penrith. 6l. ½l. My Buck (9-4) 4th. 6 ran. NR: Melmerby.

3.45 (3.47) DURHAM NATIONAL CHASE (Handicap: £1,648: 3½m).
RUNNING WILD br g by Arctic-ralagh — Natanayce (E. Collingwood-Cameron) 7-10-3
R. Lamb (10-11 fav) 1
Phone Boy .... C. Pimlott (7-1) 2
What a Coup .. C. Grant (11-2) 3
TOTE: Win, 21p; places, 10p, 13p, 15p. Dual F: 35p. CSF: 86p. W. Stephenson, at Bishop Auckland. 8l. 10l. The Manufacturer (10-1) 4th. 8 ran.

4.15 (4.17) CASTLE EDEN CHASE (Novices' £955: 3m 400yds)
MIDNIGHT LOVE b g by Golden Love — St Morlan (Carpenters Paints Ltd) 6-11-1
C. Grant (10-11 fav) 1
Donjill .... T. Carmody (7-1) 2
Tunnel Master G. Bradley (12-1) 3
TOTE: Win, 18p; places, 11p, 16p, 54p. Dual F: 46p. CSF: 76p. D. Smith, at Bishop Auckland. ½l, distance. Young Sargent (6-1), 4th. 15 ran. NR: Rag Robin.

4.45 (4.49) GROVE HURDLE (Novices' £345: 2½m)
QUITE A BOY br g by Dusky Boy — Rusheen (N. Hawke) 6-10-12
T. Carmody (10-11 fav) 1
Rich Discovery
Mr D. Kinsella (50-1) 2
Will Gulf G. Margarson (12-1) 3
TOTE: Win, 25p; places, 14p, £3.88, 23p; Dual F: Winner or second with any horse, 14p. CSF: £5.58. M. Dickinson at Harewood. 4l. nk. Coral John (3-1) 4th. 17 ran.
Placepot: £11.75.

Why Wilson will wallow in the Cheltenham mud

By Michael Phillips
Racing Correspondent

Cast the mind back to last year's National Hunt Festival at Cheltenham and try to remember who was presented at the end of the three-day meeting with the Ritz Trophy which goes annually to the most successful jockey during the meeting. Was it Tommy Carberry, whose name has been steeped in the rich history of jumping at Cheltenham for so long, or was it John O'Neill, who was the champion jockey at the time?

It was neither, even though they both managed to ride two winners. Instead the man who stole the glory was a 50-year-old amateur, Jim Wilson. What a memorable achievement his was; memorable not simply because he managed to win three races from only four rides (he also finished second in his only other ride) during what is traditionally one of the most fiercely competitive meetings of the year, but also because he happens to live only two miles from the course. Any jockey will tell you that to excel at the big meeting at Cheltenham is an ambition, but when it is on your home course it is surely the stuff of which dreams are made.

The odds against Jim Wilson doing as well again next week must be long, but already it is clear that this quiet, unassuming, pipe-smoking amateur, who spends most of his time running an equine swimming pool at Charlton Kings, will be back there in the thick of the fray next week. He already has six rides booked, and, with Little Owl and Willie Wumpkins leading the way, his quest for further glory is far from being forlorn.

In the most recent edition of the *Directory of the Turf*, Mr Wilson stated that winning the Coral Golden Hurdle Final on Willie Wumpkins at Cheltenham in 1979 was the highlight of his riding career. However, that entry into the *Who's Who* of racing was made before he won the same race on the same horse last year as well as the Kim Muir Challenge Cup on Good Prospect and the National Hunt Handicap Steeplechase on Again the Same.

It was also made before he had inherited, along with his brother Robin, Little Owl from his late aunt. Little Owl and Mr Wilson are unbeaten this season and the horse is third favourite for this year's Tote Gold Cup. About the horse who has now won his last four races by an aggregate of 53 lengths, he says: "They keep slanging him, but I'm very pleased with him. Whether he is capable of winning the Gold Cup, though, *is* something I don't know. Only time will tell."

As the rain lashed the country forcing the stewards to abandon yesterday's programme at Windsor and causing the early cancellation of today's two meetings at Folkestone and Warwick, Mr Wilson was not at all worried. He simply said that Little Owl would not mind if it was soft next week because he was an out-and-out stayer and that Willie Wumpkins and Durham Town would revel in mud.

They, along with Right Mingle, Pongee Boy and Another Prospect, are the horses that he has already been asked to ride as he strives to make next week yet another unforgettable period in his life, a week that could see him become the first amateur to win the Gold Cup since Dickie Black won it for the late Hector Christie on Fortina in 1947.

Another Captain will have Hawkins aboard

Colin Hawkins will ride Another Captain in next month's Grand National. The nine-year-old will be the first Aintree runner for Andy Scott, the Alnwick trainer. Hawkins's booking follows speculation that Peter Scudamore would ride Another Captain, but yesterday John Edwards booked Scudamore for Another Prospect.

Scott said: "Colin rode a splendid race when my horse won at Kelso last week and he will probably have his National workout in either Cheltenham's Kim Muir Memorial Challenge Cup or the Ritz Club National Hunt Handicap Chase."

Another Captain will be 25-year-old Hawkins's third national ride. He finished ninth of the 11 to get round on Collingwood in 1977, and last year came down at the first fence on Salkeld. Scott faces a Jockey Club inquiry into a race won by Another Captain at Newcastle last November. The horse later failed a routine dope test and a date for the hearing has yet to be arranged.

STATE OF GOING (official): Folkestone: Abandoned, waterlogged. Warwick: Abandoned, waterlogged. Tomorrow: Bangor-on-Dee: Soft. Heavy in front of paddock. Catterick Bridge: Good to soft.

Appeal launched for Stoke Mandeville

Racing is to launch an appeal on behalf of Stoke Mandeville hospital. The appeal, under the guidance of the industry's top administrators, is centred on a sponsored show jumping competition at Ascot on July 12, when it is hoped to raise over £50,000.

Sponsors are being invited to underwrite each of the 20 fences at £500 a time. This will include advertising space next to each fence. All sections of the industry are invited to make up teams.

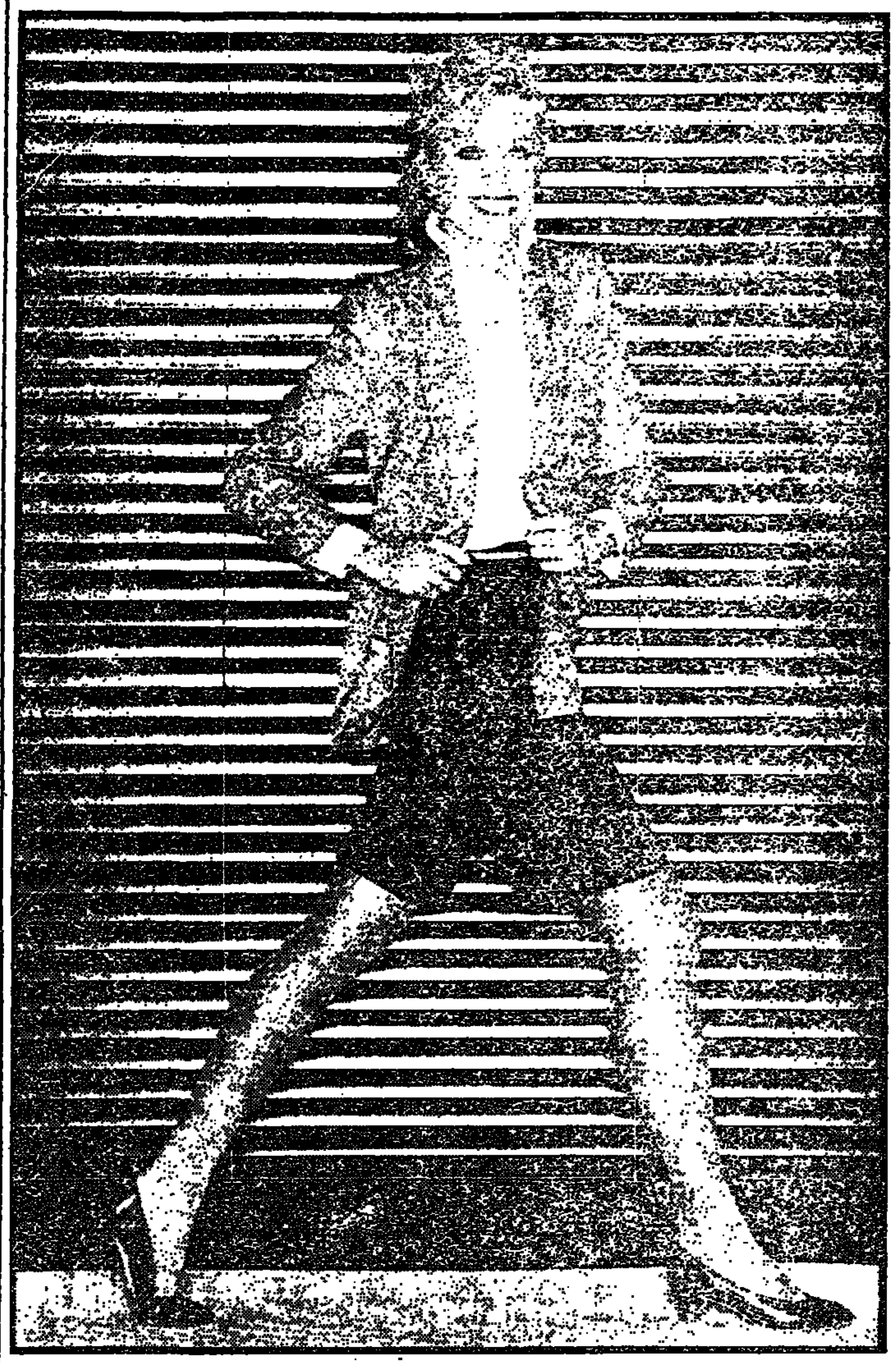
The committee, under the joint chairmanship of Sir Desmond Plummer, Captain James Macdonald-Buchanan and Major-General R. B. Penfold, includes the leading jockeys, Lester Piggott and John Francome and two trainers, Dick Hern and Fulke Walwyn.

Many jockeys have benefited from Stoke Mandeville's unique spinal injuries unit.

Meetings abandoned: There will be no racing in Britain today. The Warwick meeting was abandoned because of waterlogging after a stewards inspection yesterday afternoon. Earlier, Folkestone had been abandoned for the same reason. Forty-five meetings have now been lost this winter, Sedgefield raced yesterday, but Windsor was also abandoned because the course was waterlogged.

Career girl fashion

by
Suzy Menkes



In the case of Miss Mallalieu versus the taxman, I am definitely on the side of the law. I just wish the man sitting in judgment on whether barrister Ann Mallalieu's black suits are tax deductible had to pay the hairdressing bills for a crown of curls squashed by the wig.

How can a man, who is forever perfectly dressed in a decent business suit, understand the effort and the anxiety his female colleagues go through to be appropriately dressed for the same executive role?

To be taken seriously in a high flying job, a woman must not dress provocatively or untidily. She should look cool, business-like and unrumpled, wear sober colours and a simple unfussy cut. Yet, as Ann Mallalieu pointed out so poignantly in her case, these are not the kind of clothes that are fashionable in any other part of a woman's life. Flamboyant and casual clothes, and especially trousers, are the staple of most women's out-of-work wardrobes. To suppress all personality and personal taste when behind a desk is most frustrating. And we cannot even show our colours by choice of tie.

I think that women have now stolen the male executive clothing in desperation and self defence. The tailored trouser suit is enjoying a strong revival at the moment. At Austin Reed's Options department, which was set up *specifically to cater for the* business wardrobe of the career woman, the best selling lines are those made in flannel and serge by Austin Reed's own tailors, who have for years been devoted to dressing the nine-to-five male.

Many of the suits at Options have skirts rather than trousers, since buyer Gill Hewitt believes, quite rightly, that many boardrooms and banks, buying offices (and certainly barristers' chambers) frown on women wearing trousers.

This may be true now, but if we follow the American example, the trouser suit will soon be totally accepted as a career girl outfit. The attraction of the pants suit is that it is younger-looking than a classic skirt version. An executive woman of 50 may be quite happy in a box-pleated skirt and blazer jacket. But if your weekend wardrobe consists of corduroy jeans and flannel pants, you may wish to extend this look into your working world.

One of the most hilarious and wrong-headed books I have ever read is called *Women Dress for Success* (Foulsham £5.50) which is introduced by the well-tailored Angela Rippon, although actually written (as becomes obvious from the first page) by a man called John T. Molloy.

This is what this authority on career woman dressing has to say about trouser suits: "In most business offices, the trouser suit is a failure outfit. Testing showed it to be extremely ineffective when dealing with men. . . . You can get away with well-tailored trouser suits in female-dominated companies. But you are taking a chance. If you have to deal with men, even as subordinates, you're putting on trouble. I advise against wearing them."

What utter nonsense! The only things that should concern you about a trouser suit are not the hang-ups of male colleagues, but how to find a well-cut suit and what to wear with it.

The first problem can be solved only by spending a lot of money—the equivalent of the £80-£200 that a man spends on his (and why cannot M and S put their factories to work on a ladies' range of suits at £55?).

American career women show us the way to dress a trouser suit. *Instead of wearing button-*down collars, tailored shirts and plain sweaters, they feminize the severe cloth and cut by teaming it with the softest and prettiest of blouses, anything from a gentle bow at the neck on a jewel coloured silky blouse, to a waterfall of ruffles for the evening when you are invited on from the office to a drinks party, theatre or dinner.

It is odd that the trouser suit is regarded in Britain as a young woman's fashion, for throughout Europe (and especially in France and Scandinavia) the trouser suit with a pretty blouse is considerd a chic dining out uniform for every woman who wants to be in fashion but not outrageous. Older women sometimes tell me that they have not the svelte figure necessary for trousers. But a good suit with a long jacket hides a multitude of bumps and bulges, just as it does for the man who reveals his status by the cut of his suit.

■ Above: New ways with tailoring. Prince of Wales checked jacket, £96, sizes 8-16, by Stephen Marks from Connections; 11-12 James Street, London WC2, Eden Walk, Kingston-upon-Thames, Friends branches, Cane, 170 Walton Street, London SW3, Harrods, Harvey Nichols and French Dressing of Streatham. Broderie anglaise collared white cotton blouse, £54; from Arté, 12 South Molton Street, London W1, and 51 Brompton Road, London SW3. Cuffed shorts, £32.50, sizes 8-16, by Stephen Marks, in black, navy, slate grey, cream, brown and burgundy from Connections, Friends, Cane, French Dressing, Last Resort of Bath, Miss Selfridge and Options at Austin Reed, Regent Street. Low heeled pumps by Charles Jourdan £52 from 39-43 Brompton Road and branches. Elasticated striped belt, £5.95, by Mulberry.

■ Below left: The classic trouser suit in light grey wool, jacket £89, trousers £39, sizes 8-16, from all branches of Jaeger. Frilled-cuff crepe de chine blouse, £34, in white or cream, by Riva, from Fenwick of Bond Street, Scofields of Leeds and branches and Beatties of Wolverhampton. Low heeled pumps, £52, in gold on red, navy, khaki, green, white or beige, matching bag, £56, from Charles Jourdan, 39-43 Brompton Road, London SW3.

■ Below right: Dressing up the pants suit: slub silk mix suit, jacket £55, trousers £32, sizes 8-16, from Options at Austin Reed, Regent Street, London W1, from mid-March. Romantic ruffled organza blouse, £99, sizes 10-14 by Bellville Sassoon, 73 Pavilion Road, London SW1. Snakeskin belt, £7.50, in assorted colours by Mulberry from Simpson's of Piccadilly, Taylor & Hadow, 37 Beauchamp Place, London SW3, Just Jackies of Leicester, and Julie Fitzmaurice of Harrogate.

Jewelry from a selection by Marvella and Corocraft.

Hair by Lundy at Toni & Guy.

Photographs by Tony Boase.

Snippets

■ Eleven of Britain's best fashion designers stood shyly to their feet in a moving moment at Harrods gala fashion show for their Hoist The Flag promotion.

I do not think that I have ever seen so many of our famous figures from the fashion world together on one occasion. There was Jean Muir, dressed as ever in sober black with a gash of lipsticked mouth and looking like a living lithograph. Belinda Belville, statuesque in paper taffeta with a snow-white Puritan colour, walked in beside the trim figure of her co-designer David Sassoon like a re-run of Laurel and Hardy. Janice and Wendy Wainwright, sisters and partners, came as themselves in pretty soft separates.

The fashion presentation showed how very good we British are at the colour, pattern and movement that fashion is all about. There was a splendid finale of ball dresses from Bruce Oldfield (wicked scarlet taffeta), Zandra Rhodes and Bill Gibb. The only lady among 400 guests who actually wore a ball gown that night was a diminutive figure in layers of pearly pink tulle, the ultimate ball gown designer Elizabeth Emmanuel.

■ Is there anything quite as sensuous as skin—your own or glove soft leather and velvety suede? There was something rather svelte and sexy about all the clothes shown last week by Charles Jourdan, who have extended from the feet upwards to turn themselves into an empire which can now clothe you as well as shoe you.

Perhaps it was the presence of models like the glamorous Francesca Thyssen and actress Maureen Lipman, unaccountably outside the packed show with her face pressed against the plate glass window, which gave such glamour to what are really the best kind of French clothes. There are easy striped blazers, well-cut trousers, softly wrapped silk dresses and gentle silk skirts, the same themes exactly repeated in white leather or ochre suede.

The swimwear is also most seductive—like the transparent cotton voile shorts and skirt, worn over a bikini. And what those models did with simple brilliantly coloured silk scarves, tied round hips, thighs or bust, opens up another new dimension in beach wear.

London's Docklands

Scarcely a Sleeping Beauty

London's Docklands is scarcely a Sleeping Beauty, although parts have been lying dormant for the best part of 100 years, and it is tempting to set Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, as the latest in a long line of handsome princes attempting to breathe new life into the area.

Governments and local authorities have begun many efforts in the past to regenerate Docklands, but have failed either for lack of will, lack of money or lack of decision on how it should be done. In the past four years Sir Horace Cutler, leader of the Greater London Council, has brought a showman's touch to the business, proposing among other things a vast Tivoli Gardens, selling the Isle of Dogs to a Swiss firm, and pressing for the Underground Jubilee Line to penetrate into the heart of Docklands.

Like most other schemes, Sir Horace's have failed to get off the ground, leaving the St Katharine's Dock development on the western extremity of the 5,000 acre area as his main success.

Now, however, there are unmistakable signs that the lady is stirring from her slumbers, and the awakening kiss is being administered by the London Docklands Development Corporation, one of the two urban development corporations designated by Mr Heseltine. The general legislation setting it up has been passed, leaving the details still to be considered by Parliament. Extended hearings by a House of Lords Select Committee into objections to the corporation from the GLC and other local authorities will almost certainly delay the start of its operations, scheduled for April 1.

The corporation's job will be simply to get things done: in Mr Heseltine's words, to "act as a single-minded development agency, reclaiming and acquiring on a large scale, land currently sterilized in the ownership of public sector corporations".

Public money will be used for pump-priming and to provide the roads, water, sewerage and other necessary amenities, but the main intention is to attract the private sector and allow it to effect the regeneration.

In the past there has been too much interference by bureaucracy, however well intentioned, and also reluctance by some of the public bodies to release land. Under the new scheme, the corporation, assuming it has sufficient funds from the Government, will be able to act as the planning authority for the whole area. With controls relaxed, particularly in the Enterprize zone on the Isle of Dogs which will come into operation later in the year, the opportunity is there to make the dream a reality.

Staff of the corporation strongly believe that demand exists to develop the area, but they are still having to combat a lack of knowledge about what it is and even exactly where it is—close enough to the centre of London to border the Tower of London.

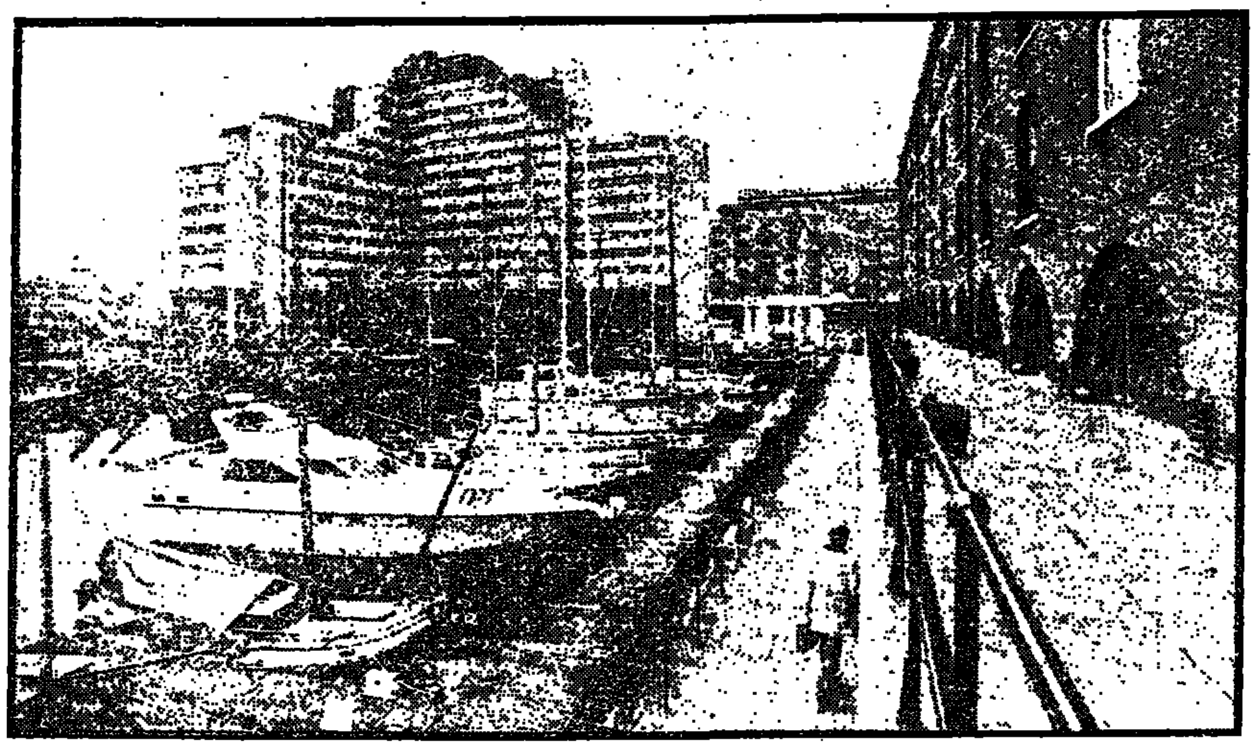
That is one task for the corporation which, while Parliament is considering the details, cannot do anything but prepare for the future. It emerged in the House of Lords committee hearing last month that the corporation can expect some £50m in the first year for the acquisition of land and £30m for the provision of services—probably ample amounts because of the time it will take to gear up the operation.

It was originally estimated that about £360m of public money would be spent during 1979-83, and one suggestion was that the entire cost of this vast project would be £2,500m.

The economic climate is not helpful at present, but already developments are under way. Newspapers—the News International, Daily Telegraph and Associated Newspapers groups—are a quiring sites. The ne Billingsgate fishmarket under construction, a hype market is planned, and £150m scheme for the Surre docks in which Lysande group will provide an exh bition centre, offices, sho ping centre, hotel and 2 flats and houses, has bee approved.

Communications remain difficult issue. Extension the Jubilee Line is doome for the foreseeable futur which is not too disastro for the manufacturing co cerns coming in because ne road schemes are goin ahead, but in the long ter it is considered vital to pr vide links with projecte housing and offices. Lack them might threaten the su cess of what may well he th most important single urba renewal project of this ce tury's last decade.

Christopher Warma
Local Governme
Correspond



Sir Horace Cutler's big success: St Katharine's Dock.

Putting a beat back in the heartland

There has never been any shortage of ideas to improve the sad image of Merseyside, nor of organizations charged with the task of trying to carry them out. Recently the problem has been to make them work and find the necessary money.

There is cynicism about the creation next month of yet another organization, the Merseyside Development Corporation, which will be similar to a New Town Development Corporation, but will be superimposed on existing local authorities which have been grappling with the same problems for many years.

The new corporation's prime task will be to revive the real heartlands of Merseyside (in both geographical and problem terms)—the docks areas covering about 850 acres on both sides of the river and including the Liverpool South Docks zone which has become a derelict eyesore since genuine maritime trading ceased there 15 years ago.

An embryo organization established last year to "shadow" the project until parliamentary approval was formalized. Mr Basil Bean, the chief executive, is in no doubt about the size of the task ahead.

The chances of increasing, or even restoring, relatively recent levels of the conventional shipping trade in the river are minimal, given the expected continuance of the trend towards bigger and bigger bulk carriers and container ships, and the preference for east coast ports in the general European context.

The first steps planned—improvement of the back-up land inshore of the still active docks down-river from the Pierhead to Bootle—may be relatively easy. The thinking at present is that much dock-related industry could be attracted to this area by a general cleaning programme and the improvement of road links to the important and excellent motorway system of North-west England.

On the West, or Wirral peninsula, side of the river the problems are largely geographical; the complex of tidal inlets and docks demanding some expensive civil engineering if the essential road communications are to be improved.

The South Docks area is likely to remain the most intractable problem, although there is no shortage of ideas, extending from expansion of the highly successful Maritime Museum to the plan to convert the Albert Dock complex into a trade and export centre. This plan was recently the subject of a public inquiry.

Many staunch and loyal Liverpudlians have for about 10 years pursued the dream of creating something resembling the St Katharine's Dock project at Tower Bridge, London, pointing to the worldwide increase in maritime archaeology interest, and to the fact that such a development could turn the whole of neglected Merseyside into a paying tourism centre.

The real problem is where the money is to come from, even though the would-be developer of the Albert Dock complex has said he is prepared to put £20m into it and believes he could create between 5,000 and 7,000 new jobs. His firm is Gerald Zisman Associates Ltd. Not much is known about him or his financial status. Questions on that subject were ruled out of order by the inspector at the recent public inquiry.

Mr Bean, formerly general manager of the Northampton Development Corporation, foresees his organization being relatively small in terms of manpower, high in terms of cost effectiveness and, above all, flexible, encouraging and coordinatin good ideas rather than dra ing up a vast master pla and employing armies o architects and engineers.

Three other significan "shadow" appointment were also made last year Mr Leslie Young, chairma of J. Bibby and Sons, a chairman: Sir Kennet Thompson, chairman o Merseyside County Council as vice-chairman; and M Rodney Corrie, the forme chief civil servant in th North-west region, a adviser.

The corporation shoul have become fully opera tional by January but parlia mentary procedures hav already delayed its officia creation twice. As unem ployment figures continue t rise there is a fairly stron feeling on Merseyside tha there should be no mor administrative delays i London.

John Chartre

More private investment needed

continued from previous page

is a semi-detached house with a garden, is absurd. Howard was a good and enlightened man, but Letchworth garden city is not everyone's idea of paradise.

All the evidence indicates that there are large numbers of people who still enjoy living in cities. They like being close to their work, to the big shops, to restaurants and theatres.

That may seem to reflect a middle class approach, which to some extent it does. But an urban renaissance will not come about simply through building more council estates, subsidized factories and workshops, and municipal squash courts and swimming pools. It is curious that the same people who criticize the middle classes for sending their children to private schools, instead of helping to raise standards and create a better social balance in their local communities, inveigh against the so-called evils of gentrification when those same middle classes buy and restore decaying houses.

The same degree of hostility to gentrification would probably not be found anywhere else except in Britain. It should be obvious to anyone genuinely concerned for urban renewal, and not simply seeking to make political capital out of it, that the more private investment is attracted into the inner cities the better. In recent years too much has been left to the government and local authorities. Municipal initiative has its place but, carried to extremes, merely creates polarization.

So what contribution can the campaign make? The answer ought to be quite a lot. There must be lessons, for example, which Britain can learn in the operation of cheap, flat rate and economically manned public transport system.

Britain might well take a closer look at some of the methods of housing finance, home purchase and tenancy that have been developed in other countries. The encouragement of small businesses, the provision of better educational and social services, and the combating of crime, vandalism and racialism would also seem to be fertile subjects for discussion.

Housing renewal threatened by cuts

The Hartnoll estate is near *The Times* offices in Gray's Inn Road in London. It comprises eight blocks of late Victorian working-class flats and, despite its grim appearance, the residents of the 312 flats felt themselves until recently to be a genuine community.

Just over two years ago, however, the buildings were acquired by the St Pancras Housing Association, with the aid of a mortgage from Camden Council. The praiseworthy aim was to carry out long overdue repairs and modernization. However, long before the scheme could be completed, it fell foul of public spending cuts.

Work has come to a halt since the Government imposed a moratorium on all further schemes by either local authorities or housing associations, and in two blocks the tenants, half of them pensioners, are left with leaking roofs, falling masonry, inadequate plumbing and dangerous electrical wiring.

Worse still, many of the tenants had been "decanted" into accommodation elsewhere while modernization was supposed to have taken place. Since then the flats have been occupied by squatters and so-called short life tenants, who look as though they will be there for a long time yet. The residents' association thinks it will be years before any money is available for modernization, and it fears that even essential repairs will be postponed to a point where the buildings become uninhabitable.

The Hartnoll estate is doubtless only one among hundreds of modernization schemes all over the country jeopardized by the drastic cuts in public housing expenditure. Also, from a longer point of view, it illustrates the failure of government at both central and local levels to deal with a stubborn urban housing crisis.

In recent years politicians have attempted to persuade themselves that housing was no longer a political issue. The sort of claims that leaders of both the Labour and Conservative Parties were wont to make in the 1950s and 1960s, about how many houses they had built or intended to build, have largely been discarded as vote winners. Yet recent informal surveys have indicated that, together with unemployment and inflation, housing is among the electorate's main preoccupations.

Without doubt, the virtual collapse of new building, combined with the heavy share which housing has been made to bear of capital expenditure cuts, will be one of the main sticks to beat the Conservatives at future elections, national and local.

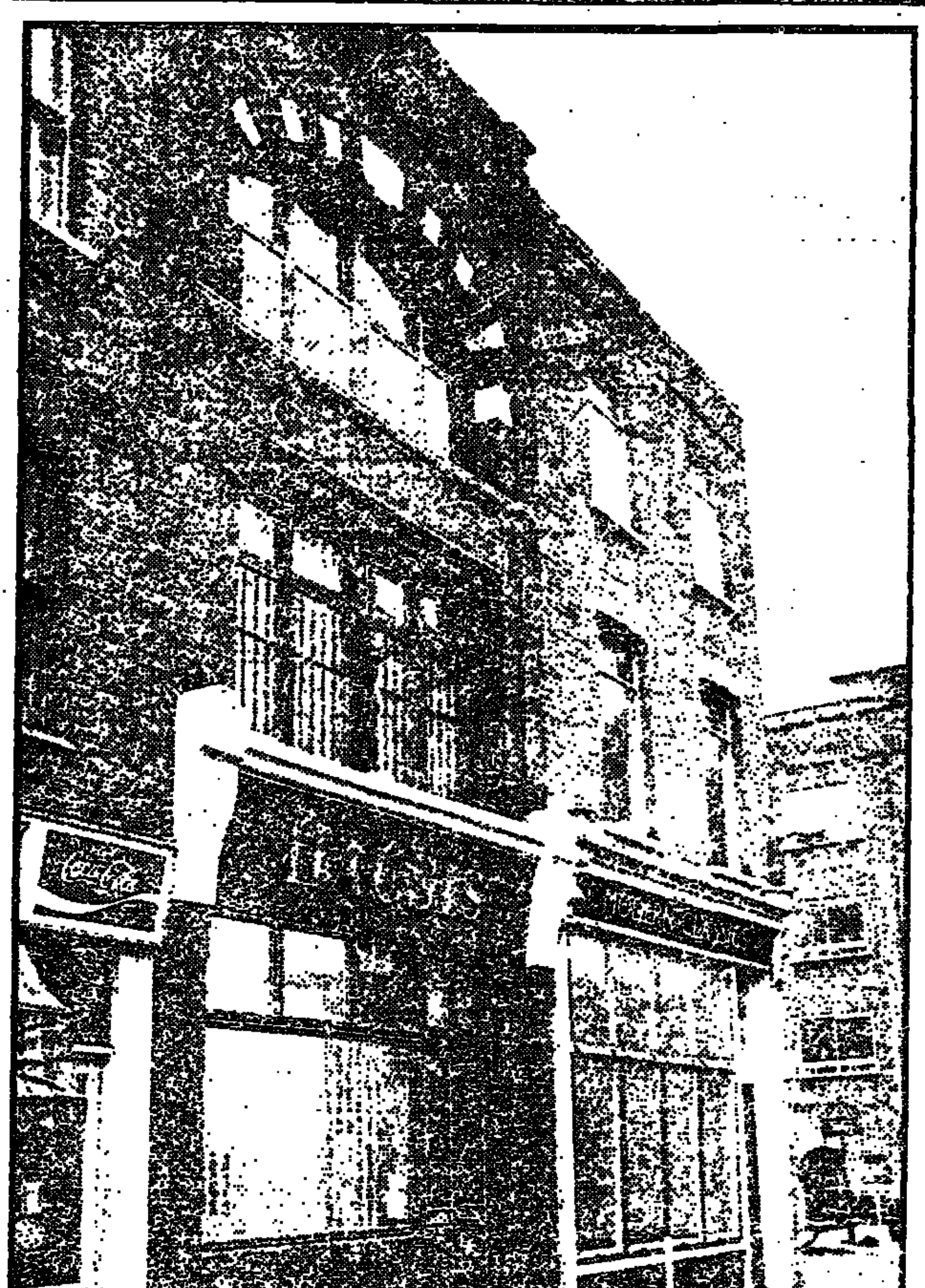
But by no means all the blame can be laid at the door of Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, or of Mr John Stanley, the Minister for Housing.

By the 1950s much Victorian and Edwardian housing in London and the big industrial cities had so deteriorated, through the combined effects of neglect and German bombing, that it was felt to be beyond saving. Local authorities, with government encouragement, embarked on massive schemes of redevelopment which were intended to sweep away the slums forever, and to provide everyone with adequate space, heating, light and sanitation.

What went wrong is on the whole familiar enough Leaving aside the questio whether much of the hous ing demolished could hav been retained—and hind sight suggests that it coul —the new estates were fa too monolithic to permit a continuing sense of community.

The arguments over finance between the Govern ment and the inner city coun cils, Conservative as well a Labour, are bound to b bitter and protracted. Th councils claim that the Gov ernment simply does no understand, or is deliberatel ignoring, the scale of thei problems.

John Youn



The warehouse in Rivington Street, Hackney, acquired by Mr Dennis Statham. HACSIS stands for Hackney small industrial space.

Small companies nurtured in London and Glasgow

Cockney-style industry gets a boost

When Dennis Statham acquired a derelict Victorian warehouse amid the ruins of commercial life in London's East End for just £22,000 in 1979 scarcely a cockney eyebrow was raised.

Today the honeycomb of 13 industrial workshops which have been created within the shell of that building stand out as a small beacon in a crusade to regenerate the commercial life of the East End.

Mr Statham is the executive director of the Hackney Business Promotion Centre, a non-profitmaking company formed in 1978 to prevent the demise of small businesses in an area where unemployment touches 15 per cent in some parts.

The warehouse, in Rivington Street, Hackney, was bought from a a capital grant originally provided for the setting up of the HBPC, and is managed by a wholly owned subsidiary. The £75,000 facelift which followed was financed by a bank loan and an improvement grant under the Urban Areas Act of 1978.

For cockney purists the incestuous, ant-like character of the building is in the best traditions of East End commercial activity as women's wear manufacturers work side by side with machine engravers and an embryo printing business.

But ironically the honeycomb design is a reversion to the crowded conditions which have been one of the major contributing factors in the decline of an area which was once the industrial heart of the capital.

Mr Statham said: "The decline coincided with a change in the pattern of international trade as Third World countries started to develop their industries. In Britain there was a rush for green field sites to stimulate our own industries. But in dense urban areas like the East End, with its narrow streets and decaying buildings, problems of traffic density and distribution as well as mechanical handling of goods and the rapid increase in wages made the factors of production stand on their head. People could not compete any more.

"In the East End, with its incestuous relationships in which small companies lived on each other's backs, the knock-on effect when one company had a problem was quite incredible.

"A lot of the buildings are empty and the cost of putting them back into working order would not normally provide a return on investment to attract property developers. There would also be problems with planning permission because of the narrow streets. But there is not much we can do about it. You can't bulldoze the lot down. What we have tried to do is ensure that where properties are vacant they are filled."

The initial aim of the HBPC is to act as liaison between an increasingly anxious Hackney council and local commerce and industry, and to offer an advice and consultancy service to small businesses.

It receives a grant of about £36,000 a year under the aegis of the Urban Areas Act from the Department of the Environment, which contributes 75 per cent, and the local council which provides the rest.

The centre has a voluntary board of directors drawn from commerce, banking and the local authority, and is run by just Mr Statham—a former chairman of the British Importers Confederation and a trade consultant for the EEC in Brussels—and a secretary, supplemented by people seconded from commerce and industry.

While the converted warehouse is the most obvious testimony to its success, the HBPC has worked behind the scenes to provide assistance to more than 700 businesses, mainly in Hackney but also throughout the East End and beyond. Mr Statham said: "Its success has been incredible. It is so successful we have been totally swamped, such is the need."

The HBPC has acted as a catalyst. It is now retained by Hackney council as business consultant for its Urban Areas Act loans and grants operations; it has launched research projects in conjunction with universities, polytechnics and the Commission for Racial Equality; it has pioneered education courses for local small businessmen: it has organized financial resources in the creation of individual companies. And all its services are free.

The milestones on the East End's road to recovery are not easily reached. But as a measure of the area's determination local industry will hold a trade fair next month at the Britannia Leisure Centre, Shoreditch.

The HBPC has helped to bring together the three local authorities of Hackney, Islington and Tower Hamlets, and the Greater London Council, in the combined sponsorship of the 250 stand exhibition designed to boost trade.

"The patient may be sickly", said Mr Statham, "but he is certainly not dead".

Michael Horsnell

Surgery after the Empire's demise

Growing among the crumbling tenements and unsightly wasteland of the east end of Glasgow are the first shoots of a new suburb which aims to provide jobs and homes and surroundings of which to be proud. Four years have elapsed since the inception of the Glasgow Eastern Area Renewal (GEAR) and after the expenditure of £120m it is at last having a visible impact on one of the largest areas of urban decay in Britain.

It is a joint exercise among the Strathclyde regional and Glasgow district councils, the Manpower Services Commission, the Housing Corporation, the Scottish Special Housing Association and the Greater Glasgow Health Board. Coordinating the group and giving overall direction is the Scottish Development Agency (SDA), whose largest single scheme is this "heart surgery" in the west of Scotland.

So far GEAR has escaped public expenditure cuts, which perhaps indicates the scale of the task and the importance in which it is held. Spending should continue at about £30m a year, although as individual groups in the project feel their spending power being trimmed, there could be a reduction in funds.

Glasgow grew into the so-called workshop of the British Empire in the days when industry mushroomed rapidly along the Clyde and the outskirts of the city with little thought to long-term planning. The empire faded and so too did the east end of the city. The most dramatic change showed in the departure through the drift and decanting in one generation of 85,000 people—almost two thirds of the population.

"It was the able and those with initiative that tended to leave, and it is those people we want to get back", Mr Richard Colwell, director of GEAR said.

Scars of ugly environmental wounds remain but there is plenty of evidence to show where the bulldozers have been busy. GEAR signs spread like saplings, marking new housing developments, industrial estates, playgrounds or parkland.

Several old tenement blocks have been gutted and given new interiors, the outside stonework returning to its traditional warm-coloured sandstone. After decades in which there was no private housebuilding in the whole sprawling 4,000 acres of the east end, several small estates have been built by private developers, and the houses are selling well.

The heavy industry that was once the taproots of Glasgow is gone and is being replaced by a spread of smaller concerns, attracted by a number of inducements, including rent-free accommodation for their first two years in business. Despite the recession, demand for these premises has been buoyant, and there is a waiting list of more than 70 companies. "We are returning to the small business which is the real strength of the west of Scotland on which the large engineering firms were based", one developer said.

The massive site of the former British Steel works at Cambuslang has been cleared to make way for new development. The SDA put in £2m and a Dutch company has added £8m to set up a plant to manufacture activated carbon. Other concerns are following the example. An international freight distribution company is seeking to take over 50 acres of the Cambuslang site as a ware house.

There were 25,000 sq ft o purpose-built factory spac in the area and anothe manufacturer who was abou to move out of Glasgow ha been persuaded to move int it. The SDA calculates tha GEAR has already create 1,600 jobs and another 1,50 are expected to follow thi year alone.

Reality has, to a marke degree, overtaken the origi nal plan. Mr Colwell is opti mistic because of the spee with which redevelopment i taking place. "It is muc quicker than the norma pattern for a new town Already, after a fairly shor time, private housing and in dustry are moving in", h said.

A large desert of dereliction around Crown Point Road which was once earmarked for a new educational complex has been turned into a public park. Oriiginally 20 per cent of the east end was derelict, and already this has been reduced to 11 per cent.

The difficulties remaining are enormous, with jobs being lost in the area rather faster than they are being created. The population decline has flattened out, but the reduced numbers make it harder to justify keeping the public and private services at the same level and industry complains that the increased rates needed to pay for schemes such as GEAR are making them consider other areas—a new town perhaps where the grants are higher, the costs lower and the grass greener.

According to Mr Colwell, everything depends on an early end to the recession. GEAR has made a good start, he says, but needs a warmer economic climate to reach its full potential.

Ronald Faux

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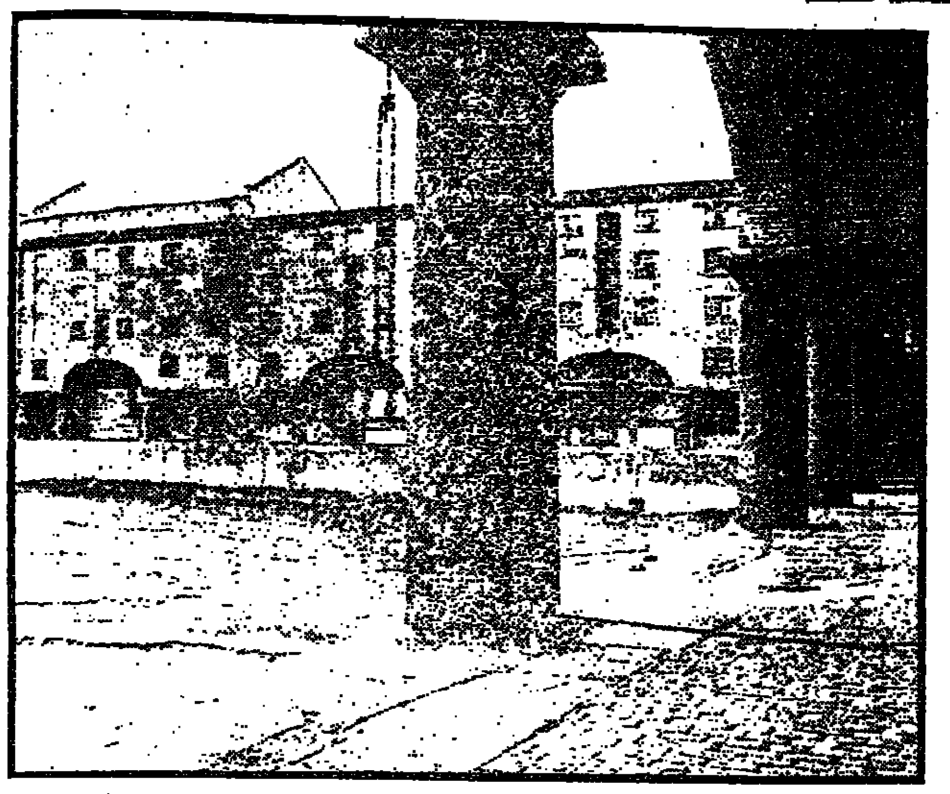
a report on urban regeneration

THE INNER CITY



Last October the Council for Europe launched its Campaign for Urban Renaissance amid the ornate splendours of Lancaster House, London, writes **John Young**, Planning Reporter.

It was a spectacularly boring occasion, at which ministers took it in turns to deliver interminable accounts of the laws and regulations that their respective governments had passed and, for the most part, how well they were working. Instead of appeals for help and cooperation, there was little more than smug self-satisfaction.

It is that lack of communication and comprehension, rather than the preoccupation of governments with more urgent economic matters, that would seem to explain why the campaign appears to have made so little headway so far. Indeed, economic stagnation and unemployment are closely linked to urban decline. Anyone who doubts that should have a look round Clydeside or Merseyside.

Why is it that the nations of Europe, which came together so successfully five years ago to discuss the conservation and protection of their architectural heritage, appear to misunderstand each other so badly on the subject of urban renewal? At the Lancaster House conference, most delegates seemed to be talking at cross purposes.

Some perceived the problems in terms of unemployment and low incomes, others in terms of pollution; some wanted better housing or cheap public transport, others thought that what was wanted was more local democracy; some saw the paramount need as being for improved health and social services, others talked of raising educational standards. There was, above all, a distinct gap between those concerned primarily with improving the physical environment, and those who wanted to elevate the term renaissance to a higher level, and who talked about raising the "quality of life".

One reason why the British often seem to be talking a different language from their continental counterparts is that their recent urban history has been significantly different. Until the early nineteenth century, Britain was in character and appearance much like the rest of Europe; a predominantly agricultural country, in which most people lived in villages, and in which the cathedral cities had their roots deep in history.

When the industrial revolution came, those ancient cities — Winchester, York, Canterbury and so on—were largely by-passed. The great new industrial towns—Manchester, Birmingham, Sheffield—grew from almost nothing in a few years. They were unplanned, unlovely, squalid and insanitary. They provided work but did little to inspire affection.

In most continental countries, however, industrialization began somewhat later and for some reason, whether planned or accidental, expansion centred upon existing centres of population. Thus historic cities like Bordeaux and Hamburg were able to acquire a new industrial base, and with it a new prosperity, and at the same time retain their role as centres of culture and tradition.

The British experience is

Left: the Albert Docks at Liverpool. Above: the street market at Camden Lock. Right: a rooftop view of York Minster with its triple towers.

much more akin to that of the United States. There, too, huge cities sprang from nothing in a short space of time, usually because they happened to be on the railway track. Chicago, for example, grew to prominence as the terminus and stockyard centre for the great wheat and cattle enterprises of the West and mid-West.

It was those same cities which, in both countries, once they had outlived their usefulness, began to decline. Their inhabitants left in search of cleaner air and greener pastures, whereas elsewhere in Europe people were happy to continue living at high densities in cities where their families had lived for generations, and for which they felt deep pride

There was, and still is, a degree of pride in British and American cities. It was a pride that manifested itself in the great civic buildings of the Victorian era. It has recently rediscovered itself in New York to a remarkable degree, partly because of a clever publicity campaign aimed at combating decay and disillusionment.

But the pride was not strong enough to keep people, mostly the young, ambitious and so-called economically active, from moving out to seek what they saw as a better life in the suburbs and, in Britain's case, the New Towns. While commuting helped to keep the commercial centres of most cities alive and well, many of the surrounding inner areas became increasingly shabby and derelict.

However, to try to explain the inner city problem merely in terms of bad housing and environment would be simplistic. It is perhaps only in the present recession that the full import of deindustrialization has come to be recognized. Cities are in decline in much of the Western world because they no longer have the same role to play in the economy. In contrast, in those parts of the world which are still rapidly industrializing, such as South-east Asia and Brazil, cities are still growing at a frightening rate.

The tragedy for so many British and American cities is that they were founded upon a single industry which has now severely contracted or moved elsewhere. In her latest book, *The Economy of Cities*, Jane Jacobs, the brilliant American commentator, writes of Detroit in terms which could equally well apply to Liverpool or Newcastle.

"A very successful growth industry poses a crisis for a city. Everything—all other development work, all other processes of city growth, the fertile and creative inefficiency of the growth industry's suppliers, the opportunities of able workers to break away, the inefficient but creative use of capital—can be sacrificed to the exigencies of a growth industry, which thus turns the city into a company town."

Neither Liverpool nor Newcastle was ever quite a "company town" to the extent that Detroit was in thrall to Henry Ford and General Motors. But in Liverpool, for example, the empty docks and the splendid Victorian office buildings, which were once the headquarters of shipping lines, banks, insurance companies and merchant venturers, are eloquent testimony to a vanished era. Less romantically, Newcastle has lost its shipbuilding industry, Manchester its textile base, and more recently Birmingham is learning that it cannot rely for ever on the car.

There is almost certainly no way in which these cities can be restored to their former preeminence. Britain is in the process of a new industrial revolution which, if successful, will replace much of its old manufacturing sector with new industries based on advanced technology. Developments in communications are likely to mean that even the white collar commuters, who have sustained the economic life of cities in recent years, will either be reduced in numbers or will find it cheaper and more convenient to work elsewhere.

But that does not mean, or ought not to mean, that our cities will simply wither away. To suppose, as Ebenezer Howard did, and as his ideological followers, the Town and Country Planning Association, still appear to do, that inside every urbanite is a suburbanite trying to get out, and that every person's ideal

continued on next page

'This case included incompetence and chicanery among the lawyers, partiality from the judge and perjury from at least one witness'

Bernard Levin examines an extraordinary legal action

The Labour drinks scandal that keeps coming back

Personalities on the way to a legal cause célèbre: A jovial farewell to Venice in 1957 from Morgan Phillips (left) and Aneurin Bevan (right) with the then leader of the Italian socialists, Pietro Nenni.

The publication of the latest volume of the *Crossman Diaries* has revived again (it surfaced three years ago, after lying dormant for more than two decades) what is rapidly being seen, and I think rightly, as one of the greatest legal scandals since the war. Mr Alexander Chancellor, editor of *The Spectator*, has discussed it in his paper, Mr Auberon Waugh (who was responsible for the first attempt to raise the hulk from the seabed in 1978) has returned to it in his review of the new instalment of Crossman's diary in the *Sunday Telegraph* and the editor of the *Sunday Express* has joined in. That might seem to make comment from me superfluous, but I have a contribution to make which includes one very important item which I believe has never before been published. For those who have not seen the comments published in the past few days, and do not remember the *Times* correspondence on it in 1978, I must first summarize the facts.

Crossman, Aneurin Bevan and Morgan Phillips (then General Secretary of the Labour Party) went to Venice early in 1957 as fraternal delegates to the congress of the Italian Socialist Party. The late Jenny Nicholson wrote a report of the scene, published in *The Spectator*, in which she implied ("although the Italians were never sure if the British delegation was sober . . .") that the trio had been lifting elbows vigorously on the trip and at times been the worse for drink. Crossman, Bevan and Phillips all sued *The Spectator* for libel; the case was heard before Lord Chief Justice Goddard, and the defendants won, being awarded £2,500 each — a very large sum in the values of those days.

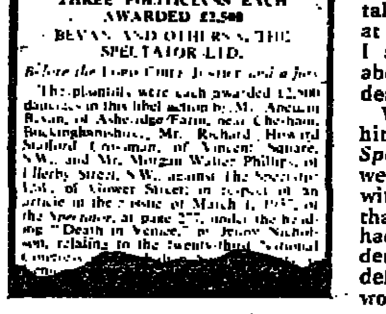
The story reappeared in 1978 because Mr Auberon Waugh then publicly alleged that six years before, in the presence of himself and several other people, Crossman had admitted that Jenny Nicholson's story was true, and that they had indeed got drunk, from which it inescapably followed that all three of the plaintiffs had committed perjury in denying it in the witness-box. Lord Goodman, who had been their solicitor, thereupon wrote a letter of positively Aquinian subtlety, in which he said:

> In this famous libel action, none of the plaintiffs ever made any statement to any of their legal advisers including myself either before or after the case suggesting that their evidence was false.

Mr Michael Foot, Bevan's hagiographer, also wrote a letter, in which he denied that Bevan had drunk too much on the famous visit, and worked himself up into a fine appearance of indignation; I put it like that because in his letter Mr Foot said that he had consulted the relevant passages in the Crossman diary for the period (at that time, of course, not yet published), implying that Crossman bore out the story of the delegation's wickedly impugned sobriety. Naturally, Mr Foot was directly concerned only with Bevan's own behaviour; all the same, the part of the diary he had privately read included a passage which he did not refer to, so that we have had to wait until today to read it, and which sheds a good deal of light not only on what happened in Venice but also on Mr Foot's "astonishment and nausea". Here it is:

> Directly Morgan got into the box, it was clear he was a sub-normal witness — shifty, fearful, sweating with panic (legitimately, for he had been dead drunk for most of the conference) . . .

The Crossman diary of the episode also includes matter (". . . the kind of gamble which no one should responsibly have undertaken, even though we did win it in the end") which, though it makes no admission of perjury on his or Bevan's part, goes some way towards suggesting that the other plaintiffs' case was not quite so watertight as had been argued.



HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
QUEEN'S BENCH DIVISION
THREE POLITICIANS EACH AWARDED £2,500
BEVAN AND OTHERS v. THE SPECTATOR LTD.

From The Times of November 23, 1957

There the story rests. But I must now disturb its slumbers. When the affair reappeared in 1978, Sir Ian Gilmour, who at the time of the case was both the proprietor and the editor of *The Spectator*, let it be known that he had information which he believed would explain much that needed explaining; in the end, however, Sir Ian decided to let the matter drop, and Mr Foot, with a claim that can now be seen to be very shaky indeed, remained master of a dubious field. I have not discussed the case with Sir Ian since it took place, but I *believe* that what he was going to reveal is what I propose to reveal now.

I am in a position to do so because I had joined *The Spectator*, as its political correspondent, just before Jenny Nicholson's article appeared, and although I played no part in the legal proceedings I did take part in discussions of them at *The Spectator's* offices, and I sat through the entire trial, about which I shall have a good deal to say in a moment.

What, I think, has never hitherto come out is that *The Spectator*, when the writs were issued, obtained eyewitness evidence in Venice that *all three* of the plaintiffs had indeed got drunk. This evidence would have entitled the defendants to plead that the words were "true in substance and in fact", but in the end Sir Ian decided not to proceed with that plea (called "justification") or the evidence that would have supported it. There was the risk that if, despite the evidence, the plaintiffs had won, the damages would have been very high indeed (the usual result of an unsuccessful plea of justification); there was also Sir Ian's conviction, said to have been learnt from Lord Hailsham, the head of his chambers (Sir Ian is himself a barrister), that justification should always be avoided if any other plea is available.

But that left the defence in ruins. Sir Ian was adamant that he would not be a party to any withdrawal or settlement which impugned Jenny Nicholson's accuracy, integrity or veracity; he *did* offer to publish an apology, and a generous one it was, too, in the circumstances, but the plaintiffs, I fear because they had scented victory and gold, refused it, and the case came to court.

As I say, I sat right through it, and remember it well—so well, indeed, that I seem to be the only person to recall that Lord Goodman himself gave evidence, as did Mr Peter Carter-Ruck, of the defendants' solicitors, Oswald Hickson: I imagine that for both sides' solicitors to give evidence in a trial must have been unprecedented. Carter-Ruck made an ass of himself in the witness box, but Goodman gave a performance no less delicately unambiguous than the letter I quoted a few paragraphs back.

But the solicitors' evidence was little more than light relief; and light relief was very necessary, for the proceedings constituted not only a miscarriage of justice, but a squalid travesty that would have been disgraceful if all three plaintiffs had been lifelong members of the Band of Hope.

To start with, there was Goddard on the bench. I have said my say more than once on Goddard's savagery; on this occasion there was no place for it, but instead he behaved with such outrageous bias against the defendants that it caused audible gasps in the court. When Sir Ian Gilmour was giving evidence, for instance, Goddard at times virtually took over the cross-examination himself, questioning him in a manner which made it plain that he had made up his mind from the start of the proceedings; his summing-up to the jury was not easy to distinguish from the final speech of the plaintiffs' counsel.

This was that old rogue Gilbert Beyfus, who got away with a particularly disreputable trick. The negotiations between the solicitors over the apology that *The Spectator* was willing to give were conducted "Without Prejudice". Such exchanges are not part of the case proper; the parties would never concede anything for the sake of peace, on which they would have to fight should peace prove unattainable, if they knew that their words offering the concessions would be read out in court. Nevertheless, Beyfus *did* refer to the "Without Prejudice" matter, and actually accused Sir Ian Gilmour of lying in the witness-box on the strength of it. This was particularly offensive, since whatever may have been the case with Bevan and Crossman, it was obvious to everyone in the court that Morgan Phillips was committing perjury with almost every word he spoke, and no less obvious that Sir Ian was telling the truth: possibly it was only the fact that *The Spectator* was left with practically nothing but a plea for the damages to be kept low that prevented the jury, even as directed by Goddard, from finding for the defendants against Phillips at least.

But even that does not exhaust the catalogue of legal turpitude, and the last is the worst. The last is the conduct of the *defence* counsel, the late W. A. Fearnley-Whittingstall, QC. When the case began, it immediately become apparent that he had no more than the vaguest idea of what it was about; he could scarcely have glanced at the papers for months, let alone mastered them. So complete was his dereliction of duty that there was a prolonged and hideously embarrassing scene in which Sir Ian Gilmour had repeatedly to whisper information to Fearnley-Whittingstall while the lawyer was actually on his feet conducting the case. (At that time I had not heard of barristers who go into court unprepared, hoping to pick up the facts and the issues as they go along, and naively supposed that since the rest of us have to do our work if we are to draw our wages, the Bar did, too.)

I do not know whether there is any way of reopening legal proceedings long since concluded, and I doubt if Sir Ian Gilmour, a particularly magnanimous man, would wish to raise these ghosts even if there were. But the new volume of the *Crossman Diaries* has now made it possible to say publicly, and for general consumption what was previously known only to a few: that this case included incompetence and chicanery among the lawyers, partiality from the judge and perjury from at least one witness. I know that Justice is supposed to be blind: on this occasion she seems to have been blind drunk.

The union 'fixer' with a conscience

A conversation yesterday lunchtime with the trade unionist at the centre of the one-day Civil Service strike designed to paralyse the Government machine was more like eavesdropping on the secrets of the confessional than a normal exchange between journalist and strike leader.

It was entirely typical of Mr William Kendall, Secretary General of the Council of Civil Service Unions, that he should quote Chesterton on original sin being the one basis for eternal optimism. For since leaving the Communist Party 30 years ago, Roman Catholicism and literature have been the well-springs of his existence and the sources of solace in time of trouble.

Asked about the day of action, Mr Kendall, a moderate in his politics and a "fixer" in his trade union style, replied: "I bother my Catholic conscience about this. A strike means acute moral tension because I am pledged to a non-political Civil Service.

"I operate on a good Old Testament-New Testament basis—you cannot sit on your backside in the midst of injustice. We have a good moral case, but one does agonize about it".

Photograph by Brian Harris

William Kendall: agonizing over a good moral case.

Mr Kendall describes his union origins as "old fashioned classic" with his father a shop steward active in the co-operative movement. His education he ascribes to South Shields Public Library.

After war service in the Royal Air Force, he wanted to be a teacher but drifted into the Civil Service as the college waiting lists were long. He swiftly became involved in the savage left-right fighting of the old Civil Service Clerical Association. He has long since shed his communism, but a Geordie radicalism remains and he is no respecter of hierarchies in an institution that is a monument to them.

As general secretary of the largest Whitehall union, the Civil and Public Services Association (CPSA), from 1967 to 1976, his term of office spanned the period in which his own clerical officers and the executive officers represented by the Society of Civil and Public Servants moved into a more militant posture as the wage restraint of successive incomes policies, applied with particular strictness to the Government's own employees, transformed the relatively mild tenor of the old Whitley system of joint negotiations constructed in the wake of the First World War as a model for the country's industrial relations as a whole.

It was Mr Kendall, an accomplished phrasemaker, who first dubbed Sir William Armstrong, the head of the home Civil Service, as Mr Edward Heath's "deputy prime minister" in 1973. The one-day strike on February 27, 1973, made it a watershed year for the Civil Service union movement, with members of the CPSA and the society coming out despite a personal letter to all civil servants from Sir William five days earlier appealing to them to stay at work and asking them to consider the effect their action would have on the public.

In its aftermath, Mr Kendall took the initiative in trying to heal the wounds by persuading the Civil Service Department to undertake an examination of "*wider issues*" beyond the question of pay. Its results were published in 1975 as *The Wider Issues Review* and were overtaken almost immediately by an economy drive introduced by the Wilson administration which left little in the way of funds for the achievement of better working conditions and greater job satisfaction Mr Kendall was seeking.

Mr Kendall, who celebrates his fifty-eighth birthday today, has reached, two years from his retirement, the eminence of an elder statesman on the Civil Service scene, liked by his fellow general secretaries for his geniality and admired for his shrewdness as an operator.

With his friend and ally of many years, Mr William McCall, general secretary of the Institution of Professional Civil Servants—they are commonly known as "the two Bills"—he has sought since becoming secretary general of the union's umbrella organization five years ago to exert a moderating influence particularly over the CPSA and the society to both of which are attached active and disputatious left wings.

Mr Kendall's demeanour in the past few days has been that of a man who believes he has exhausted all reasonable channels with ministers and officials in the Civil Service Department's pay divisions. He said last week that if his unions did not take a stand after the way the Government has treated them this year, particularly by suspending the system for determining their pay on the basis of fair comparisons with the private sector, the Cabinet would trample all over them again in 1982, 83 and 84.

Though a man who knows how to fashion words into a weapon, he had managed this week, as in the past, to lead his side into industrial action without the shrillness that sometimes afflicts trade union leaders in times of tension. With some justice, he described himself at a CPSA conference in the 1960s as "the mildest revolutionary in the business".

Anticipating yesterday's events in conversation last August, Mr Kendall said of Mrs Thatcher: "The danger is that in the end she will produce a politicized Civil Service because she is attacking the institution itself. The other danger is that the unions will assist the politicization and will become more overt. Neither process do I like. It will produce a terrible circular effect".

Peter Hennessy

Ireland: the passion about neutrality

Irish MPs gather tomorrow to debate the country's second great political passion—its policy of international neutrality.

It is a policy rooted deep in the Irish experience, and was first articulated the day that James Connolly hauled a streamer across the front of Liberty Hall, Dublin, after the outbreak of the First World War, proclaiming: "We serve neither King nor Kaiser."

Neutrality is inextricably linked with Ireland's first great passion, the Northern Question. The spirit of James Connolly's gesture remains, but the practical operation of neutrality often looks ambiguous and confused, especially since Ireland's accession to the EEC.

That stems largely from a deep and fundamental confusion. The Irish have a sense of being European but also have a powerful spiritual bond with countries that have been dominated by European powers. Ireland feels that it shared a colonial experience with many non-European nations, which is why it has nearly always voted with the Afro-Asian group in the General Assembly on colonial issues, although it has always been staunchly anti-communist. The stands against Britain over Cyprus, and France over Algeria, are part of the Irish political folklore.

For Ireland to join a European defence bloc would, therefore, be far more than a tactical or practical decision. Considerable political dangers are inherent in the dabbling by the Prime Minister, Mr Charles Haughey, with such an emotional issue, if the Government bungles the handling of today's debate it could precipitate a resounding defeat in the general election, which is confidently expected in late May or early June.

Mr Brian Lenhian, the Foreign Minister, said recently: "It has been recognized by successive governments that Ireland would be prepared to participate in arrangements for the defence of the European Community if so called upon."

Compare that version of neutrality to the model of 1949 which was described by the leader of the coalition government, John A. Costello, in rejecting an American invitation to join Nato: ". . . any military alliance with, or commitment to military action jointly with, the state that is responsible for the unnatural division of Ireland, which occupies a portion of our country with its armed forces, and which supports undemocratic institutions in the north eastern corner of Ireland, would be entirely repugnant and unacceptable to the Irish people."

It appears that Britain's membership of the EEC does not present the same difficulties vis-à-vis Northern Ireland as did Britain's membership of Nato. The modern interpretation of neutrality, if indeed that is what it still is, has clearly become more flexible.

The Government reluctantly granted tomorrow's debate in response to pressure from MPs of both opposition parties, and indeed from within its own party. They want to know whether Mr Haughey told Mrs Thatcher at the Dublin Castle summit in December that he would support Ireland's participation in a new European defence pact in return for decisive movement by Britain over Northern Ireland.

It is doubtful whether the subject was discussed in the plenary sessions between the two leaders and their ministers. But some reference however obliquely or casually, was indeed made to the idea of Ireland joining a European defence agreement in the private tête-à-tête held between Mrs Thatcher and Mr Haughey during a break in the formal talks.

It was Mr Haughey who raised the idea with Mrs Thatcher, even though the very idea of trading neutrality for movement on the north is anathema to many Irish MPs of all parties. But is Britain really in a position to give anything in return for achieving what it regards as the desirable aim of embracing Ireland in some form of European defence arrangement?

After Mrs Thatcher's two day visit to Northern Ireland last week, the answer looks like an emphatic no. Her unequivocal reassurances about the constitutional future of Northern Ireland within the United Kingdom have undermined Mr Haughey's claim, made by leak and innuendo, that something big is going on behind the scenes. If it was, it is doubtful whether it is any longer.

It is ironic that by going to Ulster to undercut the Rev Ian Paisley's bizarre and hysterical campaign against her, she has coincidentally undercut Mr Haughey's best election card. He is now stuck with a controversy about a defence pact and cannot credibly claim that it is all to do with some secret and grandiose scheme for an ultimate united Ireland.

Within his own party, Fianna Fail, there is a powerful pro-neutrality lobby which takes its strength from de Valera, whose neutrality on the outbreak of war in 1939 is best explained by the respected biographers, Longford and O'Neill: "It was a pragmatic policy based on Ireland's interest and on the circumstances of Irish public opinion. De Valera recognized that the Irish people had divided opinions on the belligerents but that the vast majority, despite their personal feelings to one or other of the countries concerned, agreed that Ireland should not get involved."

Fine Gael, the main opposition party, contains the largest number of MPs who would be prepared to abandon neutrality. Its foreign affairs spokesman, Mr Richie Ryan, takes a passionate pro-neutrality stance but that may not reflect majority opinion in the party. Many senior Fine Gael MPs point to examples where neutrality has not been strictly observed and believe that it should now be finally abandoned so that Ireland can take its small but rightful place in the defence of western Europe.

Mr Haughey will open tomorrow's debate by moving a deliberately vague motion confirming the principles which have guided the defence policy of the government and its predecessors. His own backbench foreign affairs committee has privately expressed alarm about a possible defence pact directly to Mr Lenihan and will be looking for some substantial reassurance about what exactly is going on.

The controversy has a distinctly historical ring. Under the 1921 Treaty the British Navy provided exclusive naval protection and enjoyed access to Irish ports. In the 1938 negotiations on the return of the ports (after which neutrality was formally adopted) de Valera, in attempting to gain British support for Irish unity, declared that he was willing to offer a defence pact.

It was not successful then, and there is no good reason to suppose that it will be successful now.

Christopher Thomas

LONDON DIARY

A-bomb? The way to avoid pegging out

With civil servants imperilling the entire defence umbrella of the western world with their strike campaign, as reported in this newspaper yesterday, it seems as good a time as any to talk about nuclear shelters.

Since the invasion of Afghanistan no end of enterprising businessmen have been jumping on the bandwagon of fear by offering a wide variety of underground survival devices suited to the suburban home. Now I hear of one with a difference. "Survive Armageddon in one of our tents" seems to be the message of the Dundee firm which has announced what I understand to be the first portable foldaway nuclear or chemical warfare survival unit.

After consultation with two scientists from Dundee University, the L. H. Civil Defence Company has come up with this ingenious answer to an unpleasant problem. The refuge holds four people and is made from the same protective material as that worn by front-line Nato troops. The company claims that, at £200, it is within the reach of any family in the western world.

It is designed to be used alongside the Government's *Protect and Survive* recommendations, but if it is to be erected within four minutes it will have to be a great deal simpler than any tent I have ever wrestled with. Still, it could save the embarrassment of being caught in Chelmsford when your costly, unportable concrete shelter is in Hendon. The trouble is that if it doesn't work you won't be in much of a state to complain.

The shelter has been tested by two Dundee students who lived in it for a weekend and "performed all normal bodily functions" without having to come out. The one flaw in the test was that there was no nuclear explosion in Dundee at the time.

Where I come from, people are very rude about Dundee. They assert that one day several years ago there occurred an event which has been hushed up by the authorities ever since. A Soviet missile with the most powerful known nuclear warhead was accidentally fired from a silo near Minsk. Tragically, it landed and exploded in the heart of Dundee, causing £14 worth of damage.

Drawing a blank

Sir John Boyd, the formidable general secretary of the AUEW, has suffered a rebuff from an unexpected quarter.

He had planned for the engineering union's monthly journal, which he edits, a series in which senior Cabinet ministers would set out on a full page their policies and some of the work of their departments. Their Labour counterparts would be given equal space on the opposite page for spirited replies putting the contrary case.

With commendable speed Conservative Central Office replied that this was indeed a wizard wheeze, and they would be happy to cooperate; soon the first article arrived from James Prior, the Employment Secretary.

In the meantime, however, the Shadow Cabinet were taking an altogether dimmer view of Sir John's efforts to lift the journal from the slough of tedium, ostensibly on the grounds that a union journal should not publicize Tory views. After much shilly-shallying the Labour front bench decided not to take up the offer.

All of which has come as a surprise to Sir John. Loyal as ever to the party of which he has been a lifelong member (and former chairman), he comments briefly and sadly in the journal that the series "could have formed an informative, challenging debating forum of great interest".

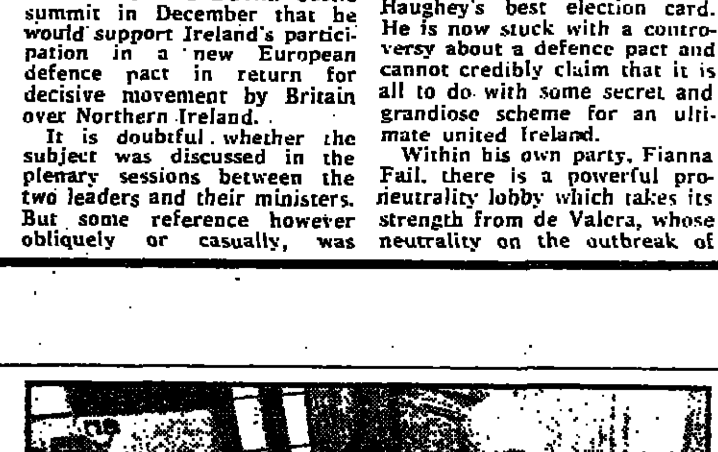
What he does not say is that among the journal's 130,000 subscribers are many Labour activists who would have found the series a useful tool with which to campaign against the Tories. Sir John, who has had to return Prior's article with apologies, permits himself an oblique reference to Labour's internal troubles: "Unfortunately, though perhaps not now surprisingly, our Labour Party colleagues indicated their lack of enthusiasm to participate."

Double trophy

A report in *The Times* last week of plans to open a waxwork tableau of the British surrender of Singapore sent John Nunneley delving into a bank vault to show me his souvenir.

Nunneley, managing director of British Transport Advertising, acquired it in 1944 when his company of the King's African Rifles captured a Japanese position in Burma and found the flag in the enemy camp. The Japanese additions indicate that it was taken by a Sergeant-Major Uchiyama as a trophy of the fall of Singapore in 1942. It is shot through with bullet holes, and Nunneley assumes it was flying from a public building as the invaders poured across the Johore Straits.

Nunneley's souvenir is not to be confused with the surrender flag in our picture last week; that now hangs in the chapel at Charterhouse School. Nunneley may show the flag again, if asked, on the 40th anniversary of the surrender next February.



Nunneley and flag. (See Double trophy.)

Off the scales

I suppose it was too good to last. I have to report with regret that a little-known source of remarkably cheap smoked salmon from Harrods has dried up.

Until recently the Knightsbridge emporium sold smoked salmon skins for the absolute giveaway price of 35p each. They were the leftovers after the best bits of the fish had been smoked, sliced and put in boxes for sale at £11 a pound (or £10 if you could find any in the sales).

Harrods admitted to me yesterday that they had stopped selling the salmon skins because they were uneconomical, which I suppose is another way of saying they were not making enough money on them. They also said that a number of customers complained that there was so little flesh on the skins, which seems churlish of the customers.

The only course left to the indigent gourmet is to approach the fish counter and request a pound of smoked salmon offcuts, which I am assured are still to be had at £5.50.

Alan Hamilton

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John Young talks to Michael Heseltine

More than a hatchet man

The Department of the Environment is one of the more important portfolios in the Cabinet. Its responsibilities rival those of the Home Office in their diversity and day-to-day effect on the lives of ordinary citizens. Yet, because it is not a glamour post like defence or foreign affairs, and because it is fashionable to raise a yawn at anything to do with local government, incoming secretaries of state tend to regard their duties with a certain tetchiness and disdain.

Yet clearly the job presents a challenge, since in every case reluctance rapidly gives way to zeal and enthusiasm. It happened with Mr Peter Walker and Mr Geoffrey Rippon, with the late Anthony Crosland and with Mr Peter Shore, and it has certainly happened in the case of the present incumbent, Mr Michael Heseltine. It is nearly two years since he took office, and in that time even his most bitter critics have come to respect his commitment.

He may have been less than adroit on occasion, as in his initial handling of the Local Government Planning and Land Bill, but if, as his enemies claim, he is a man of straw, many people in local government and in the construction industry must have been forced to conclude that straw is a much tougher substance than they had supposed.

No other minister has been asked to, or has been able to, impose spending cuts with quite the same ruthlessness. He claims that his department has been responsible for the entire net savings in government expenditure, yet he has managed to avoid much of the odium that has been heaped on certain of his colleagues. At conferences his handling of predominantly hostile audiences has on occasion been masterly.

But is he anything more than a hatchet man for Mrs Thatcher, someone who is prepared to administer the sort of treatment to local authorities that the Government shirks from prescribing for its own civil servants? The evidence indicates that he is. He is a conservationist who has eloquently denounced the shortcomings of contemporary architects and planners and who has called for a broader vision.

Like a true Tory, he is appalled at the inefficiency and bureaucracy of much local government. He believes that the people of Britain have a right to better housing and a better environment, and equally that the existing system has failed them and that every possible alternative should be explored.

Above all, he claims to be committed to the regeneration of inner cities and to bringing wasted, derelict land back into productive use. "It is capital intensive, investment as opposed to mere subsidy", he points out. "It is everything I want to see happening, and I will devote every resource to it that I possibly can."

He admits that, in the economic circumstances, such resources are inevitably limited, but makes no secret of his dislike of capital restrictions, and insists that it was the last Government's policy of sacrificing investment in favour of unproductive subsidies that has led to many of the present difficulties.

"You will not find me defending capital cuts", he said in a recent interview. "What I would say is that there was no choice. They were quicker and easier to achieve than reducing revenue spending, but that does not mean to say that they were better. The faster we can get current expenditure down, the faster we will be able to restore capital investment."

He believes that the new towns have for the most part fulfilled their purpose, that they can now be left to their own resources, and that the sort of expenditure that they represented in the past should in future be devoted to "filling in the holes that they left behind". Recently he announced that all the remaining development corporations would be wound up by 1990 at the latest.

He also believes that, in the country as a whole, rehabilitation of existing housing stock offers better value for money than large scale new development. To criticisms that the shortage of money for repairs and modernization is likely to mean that much housing which could now be saved will deteriorate to the point where it will have to be demolished and replaced, he replies with one of those gestures of frustration that suggest he is far from happy at the burden of abstinence which housing is being forced to bear.

By way of exoneration, he points to the Government's commitment to spend some £224m at 1980 prices in the coming financial year on inner city regeneration. Of that, about £66m will go to the new urban development corporations in the London and Liverpool docklands, and the remainder to the urban programme, which includes the inner city partnership arrangements between central and local government.

Besides the docklands corporations, he is pinning his faith on two other innovations; the enterprise zones which have been designated in a number of rundown areas, where investors will be largely freed from planning restraints and will be able to claim a number of tax concessions; and the registers of unused and underused land which, he hopes, will not only provoke local authorities and developers into taking action but will enable the Government, where necessary, to direct its release.

Mr Heseltine repeatedly emphasizes his desire to "harness" the public and private sectors in a common purpose, and both he and Mr Tom King, Minister for Local Government and Environmental Services, have on several recent occasions spoken of the need for greater understanding and collaboration between businessmen and local authorities.

"The fact is that the world of industry and commerce has drifted apart from the world of politics", he told the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry at a lunch last month. "The community of identity between businessmen and municipal politicians has been lost."

Enterprise zones

Signs of urgency welcome

Britain's first official enterprise zones are expected to be in business this summer. It will be quick work by Whitehall and by town hall standards, for the scheme was formally launched less than 12 months ago.

Since the aim is regeneration of decayed and depressed areas by offering private investment a short cut through the bureaucratic undergrowth, signs of urgency are welcome. It was in his budget speech last year that Sir Geoffrey Howe announced the proposal to establish enterprise zones up and down the country as an experiment, an idea which had been in his mind for some months.

The zones will offer a number of advantages to businesses already there or moving into them. These include minimal planning requirements, quick decisions on those which are necessary, such as controls on pollution and noise, a 10-year holiday from rates for non-domestic property, 100 per cent capital allowances for both commercial and industrial premises, exemption from development land tax, removal of any requirements for industrial development certificates, and a final gift from officialdom, a reduction in government requests for statistical information.

Originally, seven sites of about 500 acres were suggested, one each in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, and the rest in England. But additions have brought the English total to eight. According to the Department of the Environment, no more are proposed for the time being.

The basic criteria for the zones are as follows: they should be areas which have decayed both economically and physically, as distinct from the green field sites so attractive in the past to industrial developers; and the local authorities which will administer them must reach full agreement with Whitehall on defining sites and ensuring controls really are relaxed.

Progress may not be as fast as all would like, but dismantling planning machinery takes longer than setting it up. Legislation was required, and was introduced in last year's Finance Act (to empower the Government to compensate councils for loss of rate revenue); and the Local Government, Planning and Land Act. Some proposed zones straddle local authority boundaries, thus necessitating negotiations with two or more councils, and with other bodies such as water undertakings.

About half the suggested zones are now half way to the starting line, in as much as councils in England have been formally invited by the Department of the Environment, and in other parts of the United Kingdom by their appropriate ministries, to prepare enterprise zone schemes.

Much of this preliminary work has already been done, but local authorities must complete talks with other statutory bodies, publish their proposals, modify them if necessary in the light of local reaction, wait six weeks for any legal challenge, then submit what is left to Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment. If he, in consultation with Sir Geoffrey Howe, approves a scheme, he will lay a designation order before Parliament for three weeks, to give any spoilsport MP a chance to pray against it. Failing that, an enterprise zone will be born.

Among those which have been the subject of formal invitations are 570 acres on Clydebank, nominated by Mr George Younger, Secretary of State for Scotland, and 780 acres of Greater Manchester covering part of Salford Docks and Trafford Park. Another is part of the Blackbrook Valley at Dudley, West Midlands, where the council reported it had 300 inquiries from interested businessmen within a month of receiving notification on January 20.

Another departure from the 500-acre target came at the end of January, when Corby, Northamptonshire, was asked to prepare a scheme for some 280 acres. Local officials believe Mr Heseltine was impressed with their case when he visited the town, which was badly affected by closure of a British Steel plant there.

Another city associated with steel, Sheffield, was not pleased when it was announced early in February that two other small sites were under consideration, one near Hartlepool, and the other at South Kirkby. This ended the aspirations of Sheffield's Attercliffe district, on the original list of promising sites put forward by the Government. In typical fashion, the city council intends to respond by borrowing some enterprise ideas to promote local development and employment itself.

Lower Swansea Valley has been formally chosen as the Welsh site for a zone, Belfast expects to house the Northern Ireland one, with two English zones going to Speke, Liverpool, and the Newcastle/Gateshead area.

The scheme did not meet with universal acclaim, especially when applications to join it were rejected. Some local authorities looked at the possibilities and decided not to apply, or dithered and missed their chance.

Some industrialists in districts close to the new zones are unhappy about the concessions being offered to possible rivals in these tax havens, particularly as some depressed areas will still enjoy grants under earlier legislation. The initial relief from rates is likely to grow year by year in real value, as well as in terms of the pound in one's pocket. A few officials recoil at the relaxation of controls about to take place. But they can reflect that bumbledom dies hard.

Patrick O'Leary

Transport

The M1 ushered in a new era

At 10 am on Friday, November 2, 1959, Mr Ernest Marples, then Minister of Transport, stood on the bridge over the northbound carriageway at Slip End, near Luton, and ushered in a new transport era.

Using a police car's radio telephone he gave orders for the barriers to be removed at 13 access points between St Albans and Dunchurch, near Coventry. Rockets were fired and waiting motorists were waved by smiling police officers on to the broad new 72-mile highway of the M1.

Construction of the motorway took 586 days to complete—an average of one mile of dual carriageway road every eight days, and it was built on time. Since that momentous opening day, 1,300 miles of motorway have been built in Britain at a cost of £4,000m at today's prices.

The cost has been described in other terms by Mr John Tyme, the redoubtable anti-motorway campaigner, who once said: "Motorways are the greatest threat to Britain since the black plague. They destroy communities and other forms of transport, they drain the building programme for houses and schools, and they encourage the national dependence on the motor car. And all this because of the decisions taken by civil service mandarins influenced by the powerful road lobby."

Britain's latest and most complicated motorway project is the completion of a 120-mile M25 orbital route round London, which is intended to take heavy through-traffic away from communities on the outskirts of London, but which ironically will destroy communities and the environment in its path.

The fact that it is now only one third complete, about a decade after the first sod was dug, is a reflection of both the ease with which Mr Marples ploughed his bulldozers through the path of objectors 21 years ago and on the influence today of environmentalists and academics who have questioned the value of Britain's road investments.

Mr Nick Lester, director of Transport 2000, the influential anti-roads group, said: "The philosophy of the past 20 years has been aimed at catering for the car. Look at Birmingham.

"In any road scheme the planners say 'There will be a demand for road space—we must fulfil it'. They have assumed there is a demand. But creating road space is like a self-fulfilling prophecy. If it's there, traffic will fill it. If it's not there you don't get the traffic growth."

About 150,000 cars a day enter central London at peak times, yet, according to Transport 2000, when the planners were designing the now aborted Ringway 1 in 1965 they forecast that there would be 400,000 cars arriving in the capital in 1980.

"If that road had been built", Mr Lester said, "the projection would undoubtedly have proved correct. But the congestion restrains traffic and people use buses, trains, Tubes and their feet.

"In Birmingham the urban motorways are very good, aren't they? For getting out of Birmingham. The cost of rebuilding Birmingham has been colossal. And when you try to make it easier for people to drive in, with large wide roads and acres of car parks, you take people away from public transport. The result is a poor and expensive service, and the West Midlands bus service is generally regarded as the worst in the metropolitan counties."

"You have so many people in the county engineer's department who have been brought up believing in new roads and roads to relieve them when they become congested.

"You can't do away with the car. There are some things for which it will always be necessary. However, the better way is not to redesign our cities to cater for our transport but to redesign our transport to cater for our cities."

For the past two decades governments have based expensive road building plans on the economic need for fast industrial and port routes. But with the prospect of the main network of modern roads being complete by the mid-1980s, the present Government plans to spend only £800m during the next four years—a much lower amount than at the peak level of the early 1970s.

Much of this money, according to the White Paper, *Policy for Roads: England 1980*, published last year, will be spent on bypassing 13 historic cities by the end of 1983.

The White Paper said: "There is an urgent need to relieve a number of towns and villages of the severe problems of congestion, noise, accidents and environmental damage caused by through traffic. The Government fully recognizes the importance and the great environmental advantages of by-passes."

The move away from motorways has been welcomed by county councils and environmentalists alike, though the latter attribute the Government's recognition of environmental needs to financial constraints rather than to a change of philosophy.

This recognition, together with growing pressure for cheaper and better public transport, and new approaches to inner city traffic—such as the scheme at Oxford whereby motorists are encouraged to park outside the city and ride in by bus—may herald the start of another era in road transport, fresher though less spectacular than the one begun by the building of the M1.

Michael Horsnell

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 9: The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh this afternoon attended the Commonwealth Day Observance Service in Westminster Abbey and were received upon arrival by the Dean of Westminster and the Chairman, Joint Commonwealth Societies' Council (the Lord Garner).

Her Majesty and His Royal Highness were later present at a Reception given by the Commonwealth Secretary-General (His Excellency Mr Shridath Ramphal) at Marlborough House.

The Countess of Airlie, Mr William Heseltine and Squadron Leader Adam Wise were in attendance.

The Right Hon Sir Geoffrey Howe, MP (Chancellor of the Exchequer) had an audience of The Queen this evening.

The Duke of Edinburgh, as Patron and Trustee of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, was present this evening at the Award Scheme's 25th Anniversary Commonwealth Ball at the Grosvenor House Hotel, London, W1.

Lord Rupert Nevill was in attendance.

The Prince of Wales, accompanied by the Lady Diana Spencer, this evening as Patron, The Royal Opera, attended a Recital in aid of The Royal Opera House Development Appeal at the Goldsmiths' Hall, Foster Lane, EC2.

The Hon Edward Adeane was in attendance.

The Princess Anne, Mrs Mark Phillips, Patron of the Riding for the Disabled Association, today attended a Buffet Luncheon at Saddlers' Hall, Gutter Lane, EC2.

Mrs Malcolm Innes and Major Nicholas Lawson were in attendance.

Her Royal Highness, Colonel-in-Chief, 14th/20th King's Hussars, this afternoon at Buckingham Palace received Major-General J. M. Palmer upon assuming his appointment as Colonel of the Regiment.

KENSINGTON PALACE
March 9: The Duchess of Gloucester was present this afternoon at a Special Preview of the 1981 *Daily Mail* Ideal Home Exhibition, Earls Court, London.

Mrs Euan McCorquodale was in attendance.

Prince Edward is 17 today.

Princess Alexandra will visit the new Gilberd School at Highwoods, Colchester, Essex, on May 27.

Birthdays today

Sir Robert Bellinger, 71; Air Chief Marshal Sir Brian Burnett, 68; Brigadier W. G. Carr, 80; Sir Samuel Goldman, 69; Sir Charles Groves, 66; Sir Charles Hardie, 71; Dr Margaret Hogarth, 96; Vice-Admiral Sir Geoffrey Robson, 79; Sir Lionel Thompson, 88; Dame Eva Turner, 89; Lord Wakefield of Kendal, 83.

Latest appointments

Latest appointments include:

Mr Owen Edwards, aged 47, controller of BBC Wales, to be director of the new Welsh fourth channel.

Mr George T. Clark, Mr Roger G. Gibbs and Mr Christopher R. Reeves to be governors of the Mermaid Theatre Trust.

Latest wills

Residue for charities

Mr Henry Charles Cole, of Southampton, retired builder, left estate valued at £342,820 net. After personal bequests he left the residue equally between the Save the Children Fund, National Children's Home and Christian Aid.

Other estates include (net, before tax paid):

Bedford, Mr John, of Eastbourne, chairman of Debenhams from 1956 to 1971 .. £193,069
Blatherwick, Mr Oswin, of Farnsfield, Nottinghamshire, farmer .. £591,825
Carr, Mr John, of Rimington, near Clitheroe .. £158,260
St Helens, Lord, of Binfield, Conservative MP for Wandsworth, Central 1955-64 .. £362,016
Crispin, Constance Clare, of Kensington, London .. £186,156
Dean, Mr Samuel, of Kirby, intestate .. £229,436
Fairhead, Mr Roy Basil, of Golders Green, London .. £147,244
Nicot, Mr Louis, of Streatham, London .. £151,337
Pill, Mr Ernest, of Ginge, near Wantage .. £215,424
Longhurst, Miss Leonore Marguerite, late of Reigate .. £212,985
Sample, Mrs Ruth, of Morpeth, Northumberland .. £335,889
Trinder, Mr John Robert, of Loftus, Cleveland .. £132,406

Church news

Appointments

The Rev G. N. Boundy, Vicar of St Stephen, Southmead, diocese of Bristol, to be Vicar of St Saviour with St Mary, Cotham, same diocese.

The Rev L. D. F. Boyd, priest-in-charge of St Agatha, Sparkbrook, Birmingham, diocese of Birmingham, to be also priest-in-charge of St Barnabas, Balsall Heath, same diocese.

The Rev A. G. Cortman, Rector of Lanscine, diocese of Exeter, to be Vicar of St Mary the Virgin, Laira, Plymouth, same diocese.

The Rev R. B. Howell, Vicar of Pendeen and priest-in-charge of Sancreed, diocese of Truro, to be Vicar of Bedgrove, Aylesbury, diocese of Oxford.

The Rev J. G. Hoyland, curate at St Lawrence, Pudsey, diocese of Bradford, to be priest-in-charge of St Mary the Virgin, Long Preston, same diocese.

The Rev D. E. B. Law, Vicar of Cosby and Rural Dean of Guthlaxton, diocese of Leicester, to be Rector of Melton Mowbray, same diocese.

Canon C. C. Luxmoore, Vicar of Headingley, diocese of Ripon, to be Precentor and residentiary Canon of Chichester Cathedral, diocese of Chichester.

The Rev A. Makel, chaplain of the Scunthorpe Industrial Mission and priest-in-charge of Scotton with Northorpe, diocese of Lincoln, to be Rector of Epworth, same diocese.

The Rev J. C. W. Rose, team vicar of St Nicholas, Kings Norton, diocese of Birmingham, to be Vicar of St Peter, Maney, Sutton Coldfield, same diocese.

The Rev I. E. Sadler, curate at Brampton, Chesterfield, diocese of Derby, to be team vicar in the Caludon team ministry, diocese of Coventry.

The Rev A. E. Sanders, curate of St Cecilia, Parson Cross, diocese of Sheffield, to be Vicar of All Souls, Leeds, diocese of Ripon.

The Rev R. H. Smart, diocesan officer for mission in the diocese of Ely, to be Vicar of St Johns, Sandylands, Morecambe, diocese of Blackburn.

The Rev D. G. Thomas, priest-in-charge of Burnham, diocese of Oxford, to be also priest-in-charge of Hitcham, same diocese.

The Rev B. A. Tunstall, Vicar of North Mymms, diocese of St Albans, to be priest-in-charge of Kirkby Overblow with Sicklinghall, diocese of Ripon.

The Rev J. Watson, of the parish of Orton Waterville, in charge of St Johns, Orton Goldhaye, diocese of Ely, to be warden of the Lee Abbey International Students Club, Courtfield Gardens, diocese of London.

The Rev M. Watts, Precentor of Christ Church, Oxford, diocese of Oxford, to be Rector of Sulhampstead and Ufton Nervet, same diocese.

The Rev J. M. V. Weir, assistant chaplain at St Edmunds, Oslo, diocese of Gibraltar in Europe, to be incumbent of St Peter with St Thomas, Bethnal Green, diocese of London.

The Rev A. G. Williams, Rector of Winterslow, diocese of Salisbury, to be Vicar of St Barnabas, Morecambe, diocese of Blackburn.

The Rev A. V. Wintersgill, Vicar of St James, Northampton, diocese of Peterborough, to be Vicar of Staverton with Helidon and Catesby, same diocese.

Retirements and resignations

Canon F. H. Barber, Rector of All Saints, Fordham, with Eight Ash Green and Rural Dean of Dedham and Tey, diocese of Chelmsford, on July 31 and June 30 respectively, to become Canon Emeritus.

The Rev F. D. Brackley, Rector of St Martin, Jersey, diocese of Winchester, on June 30.

The Rev S. J. G. Brunning, Rector of Sunningwell, Abingdon, diocese of Oxford, on June 15.

The Rev R. F. W. Coates, Vicar of Kings Somborne with Ashley, diocese of Winchester, on August 31.

The Rev G. N. Coultas, Vicar of Hemingbrough, diocese of York, on July 31.

Canon N. G. Crowe, Vicar of Market Harborough and Rural Dean of Gartree, diocese of Leicester, to resign his rural deanery on May 31.

Preb D. J. Darlington, Vicar of St Mark with St Anne, Tollington Park, diocese of London, on July 9.

The Rev H. B. Davies, Rector of Lowick with Sudborough and Slipton, and priest-in-charge of Islip, diocese of Peterborough, on May 31.

Canon K. F. Evans-Prosser, Vicar of Norton and The Leigh and Evington, diocese of Gloucester on March 31.

Canon H. J. Hammerton, Vicar of Holy Trinity, Leeds and honorary Canon of Ripon Cathedral, diocese of Ripon, on April 4.

The Rev A. S. Irwin, Vicar of St Martin, Stamford, and priest-in-charge of Tinwell, diocese of Peterborough, on May 31.

The Rev C. G. Kelway, Vicar of Bentham Valence, Reading, diocese of Oxford, on April 26.

The Rev H. R. Meed, Vicar of Wingrave, Aston Abbotts and Cublington, diocese of Oxford, on April 30.

The Rev S. J. Reed, Vicar of Upottery, Luppitt and Monkton, diocese of Exeter, at the end of October.

The Rev G. A. Sayers, Rector of Lutingham, diocese of Peterborough, on May 25.

The Rev J. T. Swift, Rector of Cherbury, Abingdon, diocese of Oxford, on May 31.

The Rev P. Tambling, Rector of Glenfield and Rural Dean of Sparkenhoe, diocese of Leicester, to resign his rural deanery on July 1.

The Rev J. E. Taylor, Vicar of Wickenby, diocese of York, on June 30.

The Rev T. J. Walford, Vicar of Swallowfield, Reading, diocese of Oxford on June 13.

The Rev R. B. Winto, Vicar of Kirkby Malzeard with Dallowgill, diocese of Ripon, on April 22.

Correction to previous list: The Rev P. G. Sandford, curate of St Luke, Finchley, diocese of London, to be team vicar in the Cramlington team ministry and part-time chaplain in the Northumbria Industrial Mission, diocese of Newcastle.

Photograph by John Manning

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, at the unveiling yesterday of a clay bust of himself, with Nigel Boonham, the sculptor. The bust is to be cast in bronze.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr N. Carew Jones and Miss M. Clark
The engagement is announced between Nigel, son of Mr A. C. Carew Jones, of Geneva, and Mrs Carew Jones, of Athens, and Miranda, daughter of Mr Michael Clark, CBE, and the late Mrs Shirley Clark, of Braxted Park, Witham, Essex.

Mr W. Fahnestock and Miss S. E. A. Newberry
The engagement is announced between William, younger son of the late Captain Gibson C. Fahnestock, USAF (rtd) and Mrs David Knightly, of Dilton, Brockenhurst, Hampshire, and Susan Elizabeth Ann, eldest daughter of Mr Leonard Newberry and Mrs Elizabeth Newberry, of Toronto, Canada.

Mr P. S. O'Gorman and Miss S. A. Alington
The engagement is announced between Peter Shaun, son of the late Lieutenant-Colonel Brian Edwin O'Gorman and of Mrs O'Gorman, of Frampton-on-Severn, and Susan, daughter of Mr and Mrs Julian Alington, of Gloucester.

Rabbi J. A. Romain and Miss S. A. Sheridan
The engagement is announced between Jonathan eldest son of Daniel and Gabrielle Romain, and Sybil, elder daughter of Kenneth and Ursula Sheridan, of Lostock, Bolton.

Mr A. L. Thwaites and Miss S. A. Turner
The engagement is announced between Alan, eldest son of Mr and Mrs A. L. Thwaites, of Tottenham, London, and Susan, twin daughter of the late Mr J. G. Turner and of Mrs Turner, of Strood, Kent.

Marriage

Mr D. J. L. Godfray and Miss C. D. M. Mount
The marriage took place quietly on Friday, March 6, in the Thomas More Chapel, Chelsea Old Church, between Mr David John Lerrier Godfray, son of Mr and Mrs J. W. D. L. Godfray, of Storrington, and Miss Christine Deborah Macdonald Mount, youngest daughter of the late Colonel R. S. Mount and of Mrs Mount, of Chartham. The Rev C. E. Leighton Thomson and the Most Rev Michael Bowen, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Southwark, took part in the service.

The bride was given in marriage by Mr Richard Roberts, her brother-in-law, and Mr Mark Rogerson was best man.

Luncheon

Sir Ben Lockspeiser
A luncheon was given for Sir Ben Lockspeiser by friends and former colleagues at the Royal Society yesterday on the occasion of his ninetieth birthday. Those present included:
The Earl of Halsbury, Lord Sherfield, Lord Bowden, Lord Flowers, Lord Kings Norton, Sir Harry Melville, Sir Harold Himsworth, Sir Bernard Lovell, Sir William Hawthorne, Professor E. Amaldi, Professor N. Kurti, Dr Alex King, Dr A. C. Copisarow, Mr S. de Ferranti, Mrs V. H. Robinson, Mr A. S. D. Barrett, Mr A. H. K. Slater and Mr A. P. J. Edwards.

Reception

Victoria League
The Victoria League gave an afternoon reception at 18 Northumberland Avenue yesterday, by permission of the Royal Commonwealth Society, to celebrate Commonwealth Day.

Sir John Peel, deputy chairman, and Lady Peel and Dame Anne Bryans, vice-chairman of the Victoria League, received the guests who included Commonwealth high commissioners and agents-general and members and students of the Commonwealth Organizations.

Premium Bond winners

The £5,000 winners in the March Premium Savings Bonds draw are:

2 AW 767401	21 RK 474850
7 AB 812647	25 RB 018931
8 AK 786798	1 SZ 657545
8 AS 519556	4 SB 234583
10 AZ 417049	TS 830234
2 BF 709230	9 TT 094760
2 CL 153909	10 TT 920366
2 CL 535734	6 VN 461992
4 EN 031595	16 VZ 779978
2 FL 471353	19 VN 466159
7 FT 549157	20 VK 775519
8 FL 917458	21 VL 695118
9 JP 105399	21 VT 105686
2 NT 270787	17 WS 918116
2 LN 416047	5 XZ 461170
6 LP 650941	9 XS 538242
1 NW 046102	12 XK 583506
2 NT 251790	13 XN 185055
11 PZ 597143	4 YF 731989
15 PP 421339	6 YK 225702
15 PT 295096	8 YL 217576
6 QL 482248	8 YN 754131
7 RF 698278	12 YP 607205
13 RF 878095	2 ZL 430093
16 RK 227996	20 ZN 833495

Lambeth Delft charger is sold for £10,000

By Geraldine Norman
Sale Room Correspondent

Prices for English ceramics from the collection of Mrs Marjorie Wiggin Prescott frequently doubled or trebled Christie's estimates in a sale in New York on Friday.

A Lambeth Delft blue-dash charger, decorated with a portrait of Charles II and dated 1662, was sold for $22,000, or £10,000, after an estimate of $6,000 to $8,000.

A fine Whieldon agate-ware chocolate pot and cover of about 1745 was sold for $11,000 (estimate $4,000 to $5,000), or £5,000, and two Whieldon figures of a seated cat and seated dog, with the characteristic green, yellow and brown glaze, made respectively $9,500 (estimate $2,500 to $3,500), or £4,318, and $10,000 (estimate $2,500 to $3,500) or £4,545.

A ravishing early Chelsea dish, painted in imitation of Chinese *famille verte* decoration with two long-tailed pheasants in a flowering landscape, sold for $10,000 (estimate $4,000 to $6,000), or £4,545, to an unnamed English bidder. It measures 27.5 cm across and dates from the raised anchor period, about 1750. The dish was bequeathed to the British Museum in 1899 but was disposed of by the trustees at Sotheby's in 1961.

The sale of early English and Continental pottery and porcelain had attracted many English and Continental dealers and it appears that most pieces are returning to their country of origin.

As usual, German porcelain was to the fore with a Meissen tea caddy of about 1735, with chinoiserie decoration by C. F. Herold, being sold for $10,000 (estimate $5,000 to $6,000), or £4,545.

The interest in smaller factories was underlined by a Ludwigsburg group of a pretty young grape vendor surprised by the advances of a turbanned blackamoor going for $9,800 (estimate $2,500 to $3,500), or £4,454. The sale totalled £260,122, with 8 per cent unsold.

Sotheby's two-session sale of Russian icons and works of art on Friday again showed that market to be in an unsettled state, with 37 per cent of the £306,749 total unsold (68 out of 312 lots). Several of the earlier icons failed to find buyers. An early sixteenth-century biographical icon of St Nicholas the Miracle-worker was unsold at $30,000, or £13,698.

The top price for a genuine sale was $24,000 (estimate $20,000 to $30,000), or £10,959 for a fifteenth-century biographical icon of St Elijah; small scenes from the saint's life surround a central section depicting his fiery ascension.

A pair of Russian flintlock holster pistols proved more popular at $22,000 (estimate $12,000 to $18,000), or £10,046; they were made by Arkhip Leontiev of Tula around 1775 and have elaborate rococo embellishments.

Sotheby's sale of Americana on Saturday ran much in line with expectations, with a total of £159,086 and 11 per cent unsold. Furniture made the top prices but weather vanes and patchwork quilts were reported to be selling well. A minor sale of American and European paintings, also held by Sotheby's in New York on Saturday, went better than expected, with 8 per cent out of the £71,014 total unsold.

Today's engagements

The Queen holds investiture, Buckingham Palace, 11.

The Duke of Edinburgh lunches with members of 1975 Club, Farmers' Club, 3 Whitehall Court, 12.40; as patron of Air League holds reception, Buckingham Palace, 6; dines with economics group of Reform Club, Pall Mall, 7.15.

The Prince of Wales, as president of Royal Jubilee Trusts, gives reception, Buckingham Palace, 6; dines with Association of American Correspondents, Brown's Hotel, Dover Street, 8.15.

Princess Anne, Colonel-in-Chief, Royal Corps of Signals, visits Army Apprentices College, Harrogate, 10.30.

Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother lunches with members of court of the Gardeners' Company, Girdlers' Hall: Basinghall Avenue, City, 12.55.

Princess Alice Duchess of Gloucester attends awards ceremony of Derby Lonsdale College, Assembly Rooms, Derby, 12.30.

Talks: "Community of parliamentarians", by Sir Robin Vanderfelt, Royal Society of Arts, 8 John Adam Street, 6; "De Chirico the metaphysician", by Sarah O'Brien-Twohy, Tate Gallery, 1; "Establishment and community—mutual aid", by Joan Hymans, Conway Hall, 7.

Music in the house: Sir Charles Mackerras with Felix Aprahamian, Waterloo Room, Royal Festival Hall, 7.

Exhibitions: Ideal Home, Earls Court, 10 to 9.

Chelsea Antiques Fair, old town hall, King's Road, 11 to 7.30.

Poetry: Gavin Ewart presides over results of Ceefax Limerick Competition, National Poetry Centre, 21 Earls Court Square, 7.30.

Lunchtime music: Yuri Braginski, violin, Fairfield Halls, Croydon, 1.05; Caroline Dale, cello, and Keith Swallow, piano, Bishopsgate Hall, City, 1.05.

Martyn Steel, organ, St Peter-upon-Cornhill, City, 12.30.

Chairman of GLC is host at concert at Festival Hall for delegates attending the thirtieth parliamentary seminar, 8.

Memorial service: Viscount Amory, St Paul's Cathedral, 11.30.

Science report

Disasters: Spread of fire

By the Staff of *Nature*

Two British scientists have come up with a theory that could explain why the fire that resulted from the explosion at the chemical factory in Flixborough in 1974 spread at such an alarming rate. The damage that occurred could only have happened if the fire had spread at speeds of about a hundred metres per second, much faster than fires spread by normal mechanisms.

Dr S. R. Moore and Dr F. J. Weinberg, of Imperial College, London, have suggested that, when large volumes of unconfined vapour cloud burn, the radiation emitted by burnt gases and particles may control the rate of spread of the fire more than the spread of the flame itself.

Their hypothesis depends on small particles of dust in the atmosphere being ignited, or stimulating the local ignition of volatile gases, by intense radiation before the flame front has reached them. The scientists tested their hypothesis by suspending small particles of different materials in highly volatile mixtures of the gas propane and air and irradiating them with a laser beam. The radiation intensity produced by the laser was within the range found on the surface of a large volume of burning gases.

Dr Moore and Dr Weinberg found some interesting differences between the particles they tested. Paper, for example, did not ignite in any propane-air mixture or for any radiation intensity they tried. Small bundles of loosely bound cotton fibres, on the other hand, ignited rapidly at fairly low intensities and in propane-air concentrations up to half the maximum concentration that will burn.

Most surprising of all, however, was their finding that small bundles of loosely bound fibres of non-flammable materials ignited surrounding gases at least as readily as cotton. Although the minimum radiation intensity at which the non-flammable material ignited was slightly higher than that for cotton, the speed of ignition increased more rapidly with increasing intensity. Non-flammable particles also ignited propane-air concentrations up to the maximum concentration that will burn.

An explanation of the fact that cotton particles will not ignite higher than half the maximum flammable propane-air concentration is that, unlike non-flammable materials, cotton gives off a blanketing flammable vapour as it is heated. The extra vapour might push the ratio of flammable vapour to air above the point where there is sufficient oxygen for the mixture to burn.

The extent to which irradiated particles will ignite gases depends on their thermal properties. Further work is being done to show precisely how. But non-flammable materials absorb less heat than flammable ones and therefore radiate more to heat up surrounding gas. The non-flammable particles' ability to ignite the gas very easily is perhaps therefore not so surprising.

The lesson from the work is that, wherever possible, dust from fibrous materials, including non-flammable ones, should not be allowed to settle near areas where highly volatile gases are stored.

Source: *Nature*, March 5 (vol 290, p 391, 1981).

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North-west tourism promoted

From John Chartres
Styal, Cheshire

The North-west of England, suffering some of the highest increases in unemployment and described recently by trade union leaders as an industrial desert, yesterday heard more encouraging news from those promoting tourism.

Ten independent groups operating tourist attractions gathered at the Quarry Bank Mill in Styal, the shrine to Samuel Greg, one of the first paternal employers, who built it in 1784, to publicize the region.

They hope that many who come to Britain for the wedding of the Prince of Wales may have time to see a little more of the nation than St Paul's Cathedral.

The 10 attractions represented were Samuel Greg's mill; Worsley Old Hall, Lancashire; Speke Hall, near Liverpool; the Cheshire craft workshops near Chester, Ness Gardens, part of Liverpool University located in the Wirral peninsula; "The Last Drop" village, near Bolton; Martin Mere Wildfowl Trust, near Burscough; the Hornsea Pottery, near Lancaster; the British Heritage Exhibition, Chester, and the Jodrel Bank Radio Telescope, near Macclesfield.

The ceremony yesterday included the spectacle of television people in period costume on a brewer's dray drawn by two shire horses.

It is estimated that tourism in the North-west employs 50,000 people full time. Many more are indirectly employed.

Rejection brings anguish for marathon hopefuls

By Michael Coleman

Incredulity, shock, bewilderment, resentment, anger and even jealousy have been reflected in letters to County Hall recently from people whose entries for the Gillette London Marathon have been rejected.

Although 7,500 will be allowed to toe the line at Greenwich Observatory at 9 am on Sunday, March 29 and race more than 26 miles to Constitution Hill, nearly double that number are apparently in anguish over their rejection.

"For the kids and the orphans, please please let me run this race", implores one of the 13,000 rejected applicants. "I was being sponsored for the disabled. I cannot now face my friends".

Others feel sure a mistake has been made, either at County Hall, "my application must have been mishandled by one of your clerks", or by the Post Office.

Jealousy emerges from the year-round runners who suspect that many in the Gillette event are just souped-up joggers. Contemptuous reference is made to "the guinea pigs you have chosen", and the like.

All of this falls like water on the duck's back in the sixth floor offices of Mr Derrick Pollard, the organizer, and his staff of two.

The prize exhibit had just come in from Basingstoke: the postal order was dated December 30, the entry form was signed and dated January 26, but the envelope bore a tell-tale March 3 postmark. Entries closed on February 28.

Deaf ears are being turned to all the entreaties. "They are much tougher in New York, on which our race is modelled" Mr Pollard said.

Pole position at Greenwich on the day has been given to Mr Fred Lebouw, the director of the New York City marathon who at the age of 48 has 26 marathons under his belt.

25 years ago

From The Times of Friday, March 9, 1956.

Nigerian Paye

From Our Correspondent

Enugu, March 8.—The Eastern Nigerian House of Assembly today passed a Bill which the Finance Minister described as the most revolutionary fiscal measure in the history of this country. It provides for the first time for the payment of income tax by all Nigerian males over 16 years of age and by certain classes of women. A system of Paye is to be introduced and a board of commissioners will hear appeals against assessments.

In the past the direct revenue from the capitation tax has been extraordinary low and the government is faced with an appropriation bill of nearly £13m. It has however proceeded with caution especially over the taxation of women as there is a traditional hostility to this which has sometimes led to rioting. But in these days when Nigerian women have the vote and the country is eager for the more expensive benefits of civilization—schools, hospitals, roads and adequate water and drainage facilities—it is generally felt that women should bear part of the cost. Women living in certain specified urban areas, many wealthy traders and salaried and professional women earning more than £100 will therefore be taxed.

Opera recording takes top award

The Decca recording of Janacek's opera *From the House of the Dead*, conducted by Sir Charles Mackerras, has won the Gramophone Record of the Year award for 1980.

It is the second in Sir Charles's recordings of Janacek operas to win the top award voted by the critics of *Gramophone* magazine. *Katya Kabanova* was the 1978 record of the year.

More concerts for Bristol church

A much-expanded programme of chamber music concerts will be held this year at St George's, Brandon Hill, Bristol, with the help of sponsorship from Imperial Tobacco. A series of 26 concerts by such artists as Andre Tchaikowsky, Maurice Hasson, the English Concert and the Gabrieli Quartet will be held in the church this summer and autumn.

Dante book's award

William Anderson has been awarded the PEN Silver Pen Award for his book, *Dante the Maker*, published last October by Routledge & Kegan Paul. The prize, which is worth £500, is presented annually by the English section of PEN International, the association of writers.

LORD RHYL

Implacable critic of inflationary policies

Lord Rhyl, PC OBE, formerly Mr Nigel Birch, Conservative MP for Flintshire from 1945 to 1950 and from 1950 to 1970 for West Flint, died on March 8. He was 74.

He was Secretary of State for Air from 1955 to 1957 and then Economic Secretary to the Treasury from 1957 to 1958.

After his resignation in 1958 from the latter post, Birch never again held ministerial office. Whether this was due to disinclination on his part, his failing eye-sight, or the antipathy that existed between Mr Harold Macmillan and himself, is a matter for conjecture. What was clear beyond doubt was his outstanding ability, the quality of his mind, and the sharpness of his tongue.

Birch was one of the most accomplished speakers in the Commons. Brief, he rarely exceeded ten minutes, pithy, and with a coruscating wit, he was incapable of cliché, either of thought or expression.

His interventions would often turn a parliamentary debate into an occasion. His famous attack on Harold Macmillan in the Profumo debate in which he concluded his speech by quoting from Browning's "The Lost Leader" ". . . let him never come back to us!
There would be doubt, hesitation and pain,
Forced praise on our part—the glimmer of twilight,
Never glad confident morning again," rivals Leo Amery's dismissal of Neville Chamberlain.

His speech electrified the Commons; and the publicity it received and its effect upon his fellow Conservative Members helped to weaken the Prime Minister's hold over the affections of his party, a weakness that led to his retirement in the October of that year.

Birch typified in his political attitudes, particularly on economic matters, the intelligent right-wing of his party. "Toughness", he once said, "is a virtue which my Cabinet colleagues have not practised or claimed in the past." Birch both claimed and practised it. In his vocabulary "inflationist" was a term of abuse, and one which he was never reluctant to apply. He resigned in 1958 in protest at the level of Government expenditure. In a speech at that time he said that he saw no future for Britain unless inflation were stopped. "How often have we heard ministers say 'the battle for inflation is on'; the trouble was that it had been invariably lost, so invariably lost that I wonder if it has ever been fought."

Birch's hostility towards those he felt to be inflationists was rarely muted. On July 14, 1962, the day on which Mr Selwyn Lloyd's dismissal from his post as Chancellor, along with a number of other Cabinet Ministers, was announced, *The Times* published a letter from Birch. "Sir, For the second time the Prime Minister has got rid of a Chancellor of the Exchequer who tried to get expenditure under control. Once is more than enough."

Later he said "What we have to put to people is the totality of Britain's economic position. If they are not then prepared to wear the rate of taxation required we must cut back in general, or if expenditure on some service must rise we must cut down on others, or else finance things out of the Budget. But to let things rip is dishonest and hopeless."

This was his message. He preached it continually. It was his misfortune to have done so at a time when his party was not prepared to listen. Mr Macmillan had won reelection on a policy of rising expectation funded by ever growing government spending: under Sir Alec Douglas-Home's premiership the policy was maintained.

Birch also was interested in foreign affairs and defence. He was an early supporter, both on political and economic grounds, of Britain's entry into Europe. On defence he criticized adversely both the Conservative and Labour Governments for what he considered was an unwise dependence on nuclear weapons.

Evelyn Nigel Chetwode Birch was born on November 18, 1906, the son of the late General Sir Noel Birch. He was educated at Eton. After leaving school he went into the City where he made a formidable reputation in the gilt edge market and retired, having made a personal fortune, at the age of 32. He was a partner in Cohen, Laming and Hoare. He joined the Territorials, and on the outbreak of war the King's Royal Rifle Corps. He served on the General Staff in Britain and Italy and in 1944 was promoted lieutenant-colonel.

In 1945 he was returned as Conservative Member for Flintshire and, after the redistribution of constituencies, in 1950, for West Flint. He quickly made a mark in the Commons, speaking mainly on economic affairs.

After the Conservative victory at the 1951 general election he was made Parliamentary Under-Secretary at the Air Ministry, in 1952 Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Defence, and in 1954 Minister of Works. In 1955 he was appointed Secretary of State for Air, and in January 1957 Economic Secretary to the Treasury. He resigned the following year in company with Mr Peter Thorneycroft, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Mr Enoch Powell, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, in protest at the increase in government spending. An episode described at
the time by Mr Harold M
millan as "a little local di
culty".

Birch found his colleag
lacking in determination
keep up the momentum of
battle against inflation. "So
chancellors", he said "had p
up rather than face resignati
No doubt they had salved th
consciences by telling th
selves that the sum invol
was only a fraction of the gr
national product". 250 m
bers of his local party passe
resolution unanimously supp
ing his action.

Birch never held office ag
"I've enjoyed myself. I exp
to continue doing so" he s
He adopted the role of sen
backbench critic, influen
within the Government
party, liked as well as fear
He was elected chairman of
Conservative Finance Comm
tee, the most important of
backbench committees. His
or as some might describe
his rudeness, claimed m
victims. Of Mr Richard Cr
man he once said "he is the
ing saucer of the body-poli
seldom or never seen in
same place twice".
remarked on another occas
"It will be remembered t
the Marxes lived in consid
able poverty, mitigated oc
sionally by sponging on Eng
What Jenny Marx must h
said was "if only Karl
made some capital instead
writing about it".

Birch's "aristocratic" c
tempt for what he may h
considered to be the failings
a less than admirable age, w
found by some to be attract
but by others to be arroga
His speech on the Profu
affair deserves to be read
simply for its vitriolic conc
sion. "It has certainly been o
of the best field days for
self-righteous since Parnell w
cited as co-respondent in
O'Shea divorce case. The fa
that so many people have fou
some genuine happiness
something to which the cha
table have no right to ta
exception", he said.

After Mr Macmillan's reti
ment from the Prime Ministe
ship, Birch was the strongest
partisans of Lord Home as h
successor, and he travelled
Blackpool to the party conf
ence to press his view upon h
colleagues.

Birch was considered
many to be the ideal success
to Sir William Anstruther Gr
chairman of the 1922 comm
tee, who had lost his seat
the 1966 general electi
Mainly on account of his po
eye sight, Birch refused
allow his name to be put f
ward.

It is a possible condemnati
of the party system in th
country that a man of Ni
Birch's ability should have be
allowed to lie fallow, in spite
a most promising early care
and that his talents and opinio
should have been disregard
for so long by those in powe

In 1950 he married the Ho
Esmé Glyn, daughter of th
fourth Baron Wolverton. Ther
were no children of th
marriage.

He was created a Life Pee
taking the title of Lord Rhy
in 1970.

MRS WINIFRED NICHOLSON

Mrs Winifred Nicholson, the painter, died on March 5 at her home in Cumbria. She was 87. She was the former wife of the painter Ben Nicholson and is survived by two sons and a daughter.

Winifred Nicholson was born Winifred Roberts at Oxford in 1893. She was the granddaughter of George Howard, 9th Earl of Carlisle, an amateur painter of some distinction and friend of the Pre-Raphaelites. This family background meant much to her. She always thought of her grandfather as her first art teacher. She studied at the Byam Shaw School of Art and later in Paris. In 1920 she married the painter Ben Nicholson and they spent the winters of 1920-3 at Lugano. Her experience of the Italian-Swiss lakes led to her first flower paintings—a subject which, apart from a brief flirtation with abstract art in the 1930s, was to remain dear to her throughout her life.

She and Nicholson exhibited together in London in 1923 and four years later they shared an exhibition with their friend Christopher Wood at the Beaux Arts Gallery. All three were members of the 7+5 Society—the Nicholsons actively so until its demise in 1935. During the 1920s the Nicholsons spent much of the summer in Cumberland, in an old farmhouse on the Roman Wall with magnificent views to the south.

Here Winifred lived and worked for the remainder of her life, apart from a spell in Paris (1932-8) and frequent trips abroad after the war, especially to Greece where she developed an interest in mythological subjects. She exhibited frequently in London after the war and a retrospective exhibition of her work toured Scotland and England in 1979-80. She is represented in the Tate Gallery and other public collections.

Her activity as an abstract artist, which was a result of her links with Mondrian and members of the *abstraction-création* group in Paris in the mid-1930s, was an interesting but not wholly satisfactory episode in her artistic career. During this period she exhibited under the name of Winifred Dacre (a family name) and in 1937 contributed to the publication *Circle*, the "International Survey of Constructive Art" edited by Ben Nicholson, the sculptor Naum Gabo and the architect Leslie Martin. In 1938 she was responsible for bringing Mondrian from Paris to London. But she could not ignore the natural world for long and following her return to Cumberland took up again the old themes of landscape and flower piece in which she felt most at home; here she also devoted time and energy to her garden, the inspiration for many of her paintings.

At her best Winifred Nicholson was a colourist of subtlety and charm. Her paintings are characterized by a simplicity and freshness and above all by a peculiar quality of light—the kind of translucent light which latterly she found in Greece and which she had known during the winters spent in Switzerland in the 1920s. During the last years of her life she continued to play an active role in the local artistic community and was especially generous to young people in whom she retained a lively interest. Her response to fresh sights and new ideas was never dulled.

Having suffered an accident in early married life she became and remained until her death a firm believer in Christian Science.

SIR WILLIAM DUFFUS

S. F. S. writes:

I knew Sir William Duffus, who died on February 19, for over 50 years. He had a long and interesting career in the Law. After practising as a Solicitor of the Supreme Court, Jamaica, he joined the Legal Service there, and was appointed a Resident Magistrate in 1943. From there he took up an appointment as a Magistrate in Nigeria in 1949, and he became Chief Registrar of the Federal Supreme Court, Nigeria, in 1955.

There followed a distinguished career in the Judicial Service of a number of countries in the Commonwealth; he became a Judge of the Supreme Court of Western Nigeria in 1957; a Justice of the Court of Appeal for Eastern Africa in 1964; Vice-President of that Court in 1969, and President of the Court in 1970. He was knighted in 1971, and retired from the Presidency in 1975.

Subsequently he was appointed a Justice of the Courts of Appeal for the Bahamas, Bermuda, Belize, and the Turks and Caicos Islands in which capacity he served until his death.

Duffus was a man of the highest integrity, humane and kind in his dealings with others. He was greatly respected, and held in affection by all who knew him. He will be greatly missed.

MR KYRIL KONDRASHIN

Kyril Kondrashin, t
eminent Russian conducto
died on March 8 at his hor
in Amsterdam where he h
lived since leaving the Sovi
Union at the end of 1978. I
was 67.

Kondrashin was born
Moscow on March 6, 1914. I
had already begun to work
a children's theatre there
1931 when he went to stu
with the Moscow Conservatoi
with Boris Khaikin. Three yea
later he became musical dire
tor of the Nemirovic
Danchenko Theatre where
made his debut conducti
Planquette's *Les Cloches*
Corneville. From there
moved to the Maly Theatre
Leningrad where he remain
from 1936 to 1943 conducti
a wide range of repertory.
then went back to Moscow,
the Bolshoi, where he remain
for 13 years. From 1960 to 19
he was musical director w
the Moscow Philharmonic wi
whom perhaps he did his mo
auspicious work, including t
first performances of ma
Russian works, and introduc
his fellow countrymen to t
delights of Mahler.

He began to be better know
in the West when cultural ti
between the two blocs i
creased towards the end of th
1950s allowing him to take hi
own orchestra on tour. He als
appeared frequently from the
on as guest conductor wi
American and British orche
tras, developing a particula
rapport with our own Roy
Philharmonic.

In November, 1978 he dec
ded to defect from the Sovie
Union during a visit to Amster
dam (though his wife returne
to Moscow), and he becam
assistant principal conductor
the Concertgebouw, whom h
directed for the last time onl
last Saturday.

He was a particularly vivid
conductor of the works o
Prokofiev, Shostakovich and
Rachmaninov, and he was in
charge of the premiere o
Shostakovich's 13th Symphony.
In the German classics hi
interpretations tended to b
over-heated but they were
never less than vital. His musi
cal personality was ebullien
and genial, and he was much
liked by orchestral players.

Bosley Crowther, film critic of the *New York Times* from 1940 to 1967, and one of America's most powerful and respected voices on the cinema, died on March 7. He was 75. He was an enthusiastic advocate in the 1950s of foreign films particularly those of Roberto Rossellini, Vittorio De Sica, Ingmar Bergman and Federico Fellini.

THE TIMES
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THE NEW PUBLIC MORALITY

The strike that began yesterday *is no ordinary strike. It is an* attack on the operations of the state by its servants; by the administrative, professional and executive grades of the civil service as well as by the manual and clerical grades.

After yesterday's showday the *plan is to proceed* by crippling selected essential functions of the state in the areas of defence and revenue raising; to do so in a way which relieves the few who withdraw their labour of most of the personal cost of doing so, and relieves their *unions of the expense of an all-out* strike; and to avoid the sort of things which particularly distress or enrage the general public. It is, as you would expect from professional administrators, a shrewdly designed plan of action.

The plan is justified in the minds of those who will carry it out by reference to their collective grievance. To maintain the excellent relative position in pay which civil servants reached after the last two years' awards they reckon they need another 15 per cent now. The Government, mindful of its failure to control central expenditure as intended and of the size of the pay component in that expenditure, has offered 7 per cent. It has also abrogated the comparative (and inflationary) method of fixing civil servants' pay, without—and here it made a mistake—having ready any firm proposals for something to take its place.

That the civil servants have a grievance in trade union terms must be conceded. What strikes others is the grotesque disproportionality between the weight of their grievance and the breaches of trust they contemplate. First, they are kicking against 7 per cent and the loss of their automatic pay device *at a time* when employees equal to their number in private industry are taking as little, or less, or nothing at all. The offer may be at the low end of the scale of public sector awards in this pay round, but their jobs are secure and their pensions are proof at a time when two and a *half million* of their fellow citizens can get no job at all.

Second, *in* pursuit of their claim for more money they propose, if they can, to disrupt the flow of public revenue, the immediate implementation of budget resolutions, the gathering of foreign intelligence, and British participation in Nato exercises. So large a defection from duty by normally responsible public servants suggests that the habits and morality of trade unionism have now superseded any other public morality in the government of their conduct. And the new morality is preposterous even in its own context: the unveiling of a bust of Ernest Bevin, the greatest English trade unionist of the twentieth century, was unattended yesterday by any representative of the unions, even his own, other than a picket to keep all the others away.

This is the triumph of sectional over national objects. Yet on any but the narrowest view of their own sectional interest the civil servants are doing themselves down. They stand to suffer more than most from the kind of society where the public administration is unreliable, tatty, *lacking in public spirit*; and where the body politic is disabled by a kind of locomotor ataxia, its limbs incapable of executing the motions intended by its will.

The Government deserves to be stiffened by Parliament and the public to defeat this new encroachment on public standards by sectional grievance. It should lose no more time in bringing forward proposals for the regular determination of pay in the civil service of a kind which allow market forces to make themselves felt as well as inevitably artificial comparisons. It must address itself to extending the areas of public employment in which the right to withdraw labour is resigned by contract. It will be necessary to reconsider the policy of substituting civilian for service personnel where the former show that they can no longer be relied on to do their duty. Now that the Scott report has been published on the inflation-proofing of public service pensions the Government will be making up its mind about that question too. Part of the context for that decision is the public's sense of rough justice: if the civil service wishes to be treated well, let it behave well.

MR BREZHNEV'S PEACE CAMPAIGN

Mr Brezhnev has been following his normal habit of sending out letters to western leaders reinforcing his latest proposals on peace and disarmament. In many ways it is the mixture as before, a tricky jumble of propositions, some of which are made purely for effect, some of which are unacceptable, and some of which may contain genuine substance for negotiation. Nobody, for instance, would expect much of his proposed international committee to "demonstrate the vital necessity of preventing nuclear war". Nor could the west agree to freeze medium range nuclear missiles in Europe at their present level because that would leave Nato at a disadvantage. On the other hand his offer to extend military confidence-building measures to the Urals, while unacceptable in its present form, could lead somewhere.

The broader problem for the West, however, is to assess the trend of Soviet policy and to work out an appropriate policy of its own. The studied moderation of Mr Brezhnev's speech, *with its avoidance of some of the* more provocative Soviet formulations on world revolution, suggests that he really is anxious to open a dialogue with the new administration in Washington and to save what is left of détente. He wants a summit meeting with Mr Reagan. He wants negotiations on arms control. And he especially wants the Europeans to support him, though whether he is trying to split them from Washington or merely hoping they will moderate Mr Reagan's ardour is an open question.

Some of the men around Mr Reagan will not be impressed. They believe that the whole Soviet "peace programme" is a vast trick designed to lull the West into a false sense of security while the Russians continue to arm, buy western technology, and gradually gain control of areas on which the West depends for oil and raw materials. They may admit that the Russians genuinely want to put some limits on the arms race but their answer is to start by building up American strength so as to negotiate better and to put more strain on the Soviet economy, which they believe to be incapable of *sustaining significantly higher defence spending*.

This is a risky view which needs to be countered from Europe. Soviet defence spending normally rises by about 4-5 per cent a year. This rate of growth slowed to about 3 per cent in 1978-9 but is expected to pick up again from now on. What we cannot be sure about is the rate of economic growth. This has been slowing down steadily over the years, so that defence spending is obviously taking a steadily growing proportion, probably about 12 per cent at present. If economic growth were to drop below 2 per cent a year the defence budget would begin to compete very sharply with other sectors of the economy, especially living standards, but if it stays above that level the Soviet Union could sustain a fairly high level of defence spending through this decade without getting into much worse economic trouble than it is in already. It would therefore be unwise of the West to bank on beating the Soviet Union in an arms race. The political power of the armed forces and the high priority now given to military strength would ensure that military spending would be the last sacrifice to be made in any Soviet budget.

The West in general and the United States in particular must therefore combine the necessary strengthening of their defences with a serious attempt to re-open negotiations on arms control, and to lock the Soviet Union into the process in a way that will make it as difficult as possible for Mr Brezhnev's successors to get out. Apart from being the wisest policy for its own sake it is also the only way of reassuring those sections of western public opinion that are becoming increasingly nervous about the prospects of the arms race *getting even further out of control* than it already is.

But arms control on its own will not solve the problems of east-west relations. It has already been made to carry far too much political baggage. What the West needs is a much clearer idea of what it is trying to achieve in relations with the Soviet Union. Without this the Atlantic will grow steadily wider as Europe pursues hopes that are not shared in Washington.

RUNNING RISKS WITH SEA LAW

The Reagan Administration's decision to withhold final agreement to the content of the law of the sea convention until it has reviewed its policy on deep-sea mining is unnecessary, short-sighted, and has potentially chaotic consequences for international relations. It is particularly unfortunate that the latest session of the law of the sea conference, which was also expected to be its last, should have so closely coincided with President Reagan's accession. The statement by which the State Department announced the decision, and the official explanations that followed, showed all the signs of being put together by people who did not fully understand the issues at stake. The fact that the decision was taken, however, should not occasion surprise. The Republican Party's election platform last year was strongly antagonistic to those parts of the draft text of the convention which dealt with the system which would govern mining operations for manganese nodules on the sea-bed, and, although the subject was not in the foreground during the election campaign, President Reagan and his close advisers made it clear that they would support the United States' mining interests in their opposition to the arrangements proposed in the draft convention.

The mining companies claim that the existing text would require huge financial investment on their part without affording them anything like the returns which would make such investment attractive. Behind that apparently commercial objection lies a deep-rooted suspicion of placing their mining operations under the control of the proposed international seabed authority which could, they believe, be motivated by political rather than economic considerations. They are unhappy, too, about giving the knowledge and benefit of their advanced technology to possibly unfriendly countries of the third world.

These points are far from new. Over the past seven years, successive United States negotiators have argued them with skill and strength, and have, for the most part, succeeded in making the mining system far more advantageous to the United States than was the original scheme proposed. There were still some aspects to be negotiated, but it was not suggested that they were important enough to delay final agreement on the convention beyond the six weeks of the current negotiating session.

The Reagan Administration should not believe that, by adopting a tough stance, it can obtain a text of which the mining interests will approve. Far more likely is that such an approach will result not just in continued disagreement over the mining clauses, but in the collapse of the whole negotiation. From the beginning, all the participating countries have accepted that the convention would be in the nature of a package. Compromises by one group of countries on one aspect would be met by *concessions by other states on* other issues. That delicate balance which has taken years to achieve, is in danger of falling apart if one country plays too crude a hand. So far, against the odds, it has held. The new intervention by the United States Government now places it in jeopardy. If the talks collapse, it would not mean that those parts of the text which have been agreed would continue to have at least a moral binding force. They would not become part of international customary law.

Instead, there would be the threat of maritime lawlessness, with countries reverting to acting according to their narrow interests, declaring 200 mile (or more) territorial seas, interfering with the freedom of navigation and unilaterally appropriating seabed resources. The consequences would not be limited to maritime issues. It would only be a matter *of time before disputes spilled* over into the arena of international politics. That cannot be in the interests of the United States.

Keeping the public books

From Mr John Garrett, MP for Norwich, South (Labour)

Sir, Your leader on the report of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) on our state audit system ("Parliament and the public purse," March 5) missed the most important reform that it proposed.

There is no doubt that the Comptroller and Auditor General was intended by the 1866 Exchequer and Audit Act to be a servant of the House of Commons and he was regularly described as an officer of the House until about fifty years ago. Today, the Treasury maintains that he is no more than a witness to the PAC. *He is appointed by the* Executive, usually from the ranks of the higher Civil Service; his staff are recruited and graded by the Civil Service Department; the form of the accounts he audits is prescribed by the Treasury and his examination is restricted to about half of all public expenditure. As a result, ours is an exceptionally weak system of state audit compared with those of other western countries.

The PAC has recommended that the House of Commons should take control of the audit of all public expenditures and that a National Audit Office should examine not only financial regularity but also the efficiency and effectiveness of the spending agencies, public and private. This activity is quite different from the scrutiny of present and prospective policy and legislation carried out by other select committees.

The proposals of the PAC are of constitutional importance because they represent an attempt *greatly to extend Parliamentary scrutiny of* the Executive.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN GARRETT,
House of Commons.
March 5.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Amending Canada's Constitution

From Mr Robin Maxwell-Hyslop, MP for Tiverton (Conservative)

Sir, While I sympathise with what Lord Alport (March 5) seeks to do, the method which he recommends is technically defective in two respects: first, section 4 of the Statute of Westminster, 1931, expressly forbids the United Kingdom Parliament from amending (inter alia) the Statute of Westminster itself except at the request of and with the consent of each and every Dominion thereby affected. Such action would therefore require such "request and consent" from the Canadian Government.

Secondly, repealing section 7 of the Statute of Westminster would not have the effect which Lord Alport intends: it would not enable the Canadian Federal Government to amend the British North America Act, 1867, which, being an Act of the United Kingdom Parliament, can only be amended by the United Kingdom Parliament.

Section 7 of the Statute of Westminster merely exempts from all the other provisions of the Statute of Westminster any measures for the "repeal, amendment or alteration of the British North America Acts, 1867-1930, or any order, rule or regulation made thereunder". Thus the effect of repealing section 7 of the Statute of Westminster, 1931, would be to bring such "repeal, amendment or alteration of the BNA Acts, 1867-1930 . . ." *within* the scope of the Statute of Westminster, whose section 4 interdicts unilateral action by the United Kingdom Parliament.

Canada could then still not amend the British North America Acts (and thus its own constitution): only the United Kingdom could amend those United Kingdom Acts.

There is, however, a simple way of doing what Lord Alport seeks to do, which is for the United Kingdom Parliament to enact unilaterally (as it is expressly entitled to do, pursuant to section 7 of the Statute of Westminster) my own British North America Act 1867 (Amendment) Bill, which is currently before Parliament.

This has only one simple and comprehensive effective clause, which reads: "Her Majesty may, by and with the advice and consent of the Parliament of Canada, in Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, enact without restriction amendments to the British North America Act, 1867, and any public general acts amending its provisions".

Not only would this achieve the transfer from the United Kingdom to the Canadian Parliament the power to amend the Canadian Constitution, but it would have two other advantages: it places on the Canadian rather than the United Kingdom Parliament the task of judging what changes should be made in the Canadian Constitution; secondly, as a Bill with one effective clause rather than the "Trudeau Bill" with numerous (57?) clauses, only a limited spectrum of amendments would be "in order". Its passage through the committee and report stages would therefore offer markedly fewer opportunities for abuse by tabling hundreds of amendments with the purpose of wrecking the Government's parliamentary timetable.

Yours faithfully,
ROBIN MAXWELL-HYSLOP,
House of Commons.
March 5.

From Mr Ron Gostick

Sir, Your letter by Lord Alport, "Can Westminster decide for Canada?" (March 5), rightly expresses concern at the prospect of Westminster's becoming embroiled in the Canadian constitutional crisis which has arisen because of the unilateral action of our Federal Government against the wishes of the majority of our provinces.

Lord Alport offers a penetrating insight into the nature of this Ottawa request by noting that it is not the responsibility of the Westminster Government to pass judgment on the propriety of any Canadian bill of rights or division of provincial-federal powers. These are matters which should be dealt with *in Canada, by Canadians*.

The cold reality is that our Prime Minister is attempting to "use" the British Parliament to do his dirty work for him. For years he has been attempting, without much success, to impose the French language upon all Canadian provinces. And the essence of his so-called "charter of rights" which he has now tacked on to his patriation request is the imposition of his bilingual language policy. In other words, he is asking Westminster not simply to patriate the British North America Act, but to first change it to include so-called "rights" rejected by most of the Canadian provinces and Premiers.

It is interesting to note that Mr Trudeau in 1964, while still teaching constitutional law at university and before he joined the Liberal Party, addressing a conference of learned societies in Charlottetown on Canadian constitutionalism, said: Federalism is by its very essence a compromise and a pact . . . It is a pact or quasi-treaty, in the sense that the terms of that compromise cannot be changed unilaterally.

In other words, the Canadian Confederation is composed of *two* "sovereignties", *two* parties to the agreement: the provinces and the Federal Government. And, said Mr Trudeau, neither party can change the terms of that pact without the consent of the other party.

While I appreciate the fact that her Majesty's Westminster Government may feel bound by precedent and convention to introduce the Trudeau request in Parliament, it is my hope that the members of the British Parliament, keeping in mind Mr Trudeau's own words of 1964, will not prematurely abrogate their custodial responsibilities. After all, to adopt Lord Alport's suggestion of the repeal of section 7 of the Statute of Westminster would appear to many as an act of abrogation.

I would suggest, rather, that the Westminster Parliament give a lead in acting as conciliator with the *Canadian Parliament* and *provinces* in working out a mutually agreeable request to Westminster.

Sincerely yours,
RON GOSTICK, National Director,
The Canadian League of Rights,
Box 130,
Flesherton,
Ontario,
Canada.
March 7.

Future of the Tunnicliffe collection

From Mr Denis Mahon, FBA

Sir, Both your Sale Room Correspondent's report (March 4) on the projected break-up by auction sale of the unique collection of his drawings which was the life-work of Charles Tunnicliffe, RA, and the letter which followed it on March 7 from Mr Ian Prestt make the fact clear that plenty of evidence exists that "the best-known bird and animal artist of this century" (your Sale Room Correspondent's description) wished that his measured drawings and sketch books should be preserved in a public institution for the public benefit.

Many members of the public whose interest becomes thus involved will feel highly critical of the ill-considered way in which the whole matter appears to have been *handled by the executors, whose* responsibility it was fully to investigate the possibility of reconciling Charles Tunnicliffe's known wishes with the financial interests of his beneficiaries.

The public are indebted to Mr Prestt for making clear the welcome news that the National Museum of Wales is anxious to provide a home for as much of the collection as possible, and no one would wish to discourage his proposal to raise money from charitable trusts and others with this end in view. But it is a misconception to imply that such funds should be earmarked merely to enable the National Museum of Wales to make bids specifically at auction before *first* fully exploring other avenues whereby *the whole, or even part, of the* collection might enter that institution. However, Mr Prestt cannot be criticized for being unaware of these potentialities when the executors themselves seem so ill-informed.

Two avenues exist whereby the beneficiaries could be financially advantaged while according proper respect to the very understandable wishes of their benefactor. The first method is by offering to the Capital Taxes Office in satisfaction of tax under paragraph 17(4)(c) of schedule 4 to the Finance Act, 1975, such of the collection as would completely discharge all capital tax liabilities on the non-artistic portion of the estate; and this would be possible at a more advantageous rate to the beneficiaries than if they were to resort to an open market sale and then discharge those liabilities from the proceeds (which would themselves be reduced by suffering tax at the full rate).

The second avenue is that, having thus considerably diminished the scale of the problem, the acquisition of all, or as much as possible, of the residue of the collection should ensue by private treaty sale direct to the National Museum of Wales. It should be borne in mind that the proceeds of sales to that institution are, under paragraph 12 of schedule 6 to the Finance Act 1975, totally exempt from capital taxes—with the further considerable benefit that they are not aggregated with the rest of the estate.

In such circumstances, by any deal involving payment of more than the net sum which would accrue from a (taxable) sale at auction, the beneficiaries would benefit financially *pro tanto*, and the works thus purchased would join those which would already have entered the National Museum of Wales after being surrendered in satisfaction of tax. By way of illustrating the nature of the financial advantage, it may be pointed out that if the applicable tax rate were more than 50 per cent, the amount obtained by auction would have to more than double the museums figure in order to produce the equivalent.

Accordingly, Mr Prestt's campaign could be more constructively directed to assisting the funding of such acquisitions direct by the National Museum of Wales *in a way in which the museum would pay less, and the beneficiaries gain more*, than by open market sale.

It is greatly to be hoped that, in view of the wholly legitimate public concern, the executors and beneficiaries will seriously reconsider their plans for the break-up of the collection; and that they may decide to act in such a way as not only to advantage the residuary legatees financially, but also to enable as much justice as possible to be done to the wishes of Charles Tunnicliffe.

Yours faithfully,
DENIS MAHON,
33 Cadogan Square, SW1.
March 8.

From Mrs Elizabeth Whiteman

Sir, With reference to the proposed sale of the artistic estate of Charles Tunnicliffe: the circumstances which may have forced the legatees to take this unfortunate decision may still be redeemed if the collection could be bought as a whole either by the nation or by a patron for the nation.

We cannot afford to let this great ornithological and artistic heritage slip from our grasp, never to be seen as a whole again.

Yours faithfully,
ELIZABETH WHITEMAN,
77 Lower High Street,
Thame,
Oxfordshire.
March 4.

Remands in custody

From Mrs Rachel Gibbs

Sir, In his letter to you (February 18), the Honorary Secretary of the Justices' Clerks' Society drew attention to the plight of the accused who *are committed for* trial to the Crown Court in custody and commented on the fact that at this stage of the criminal process there is no periodic review of the case by a court or *anyone else*.

The Board of Visitors at Pentonville do in fact keep a close watch on the length of time remand prisoners spend in the prison and at its monthly meeting receive a list of inmates awaiting trial and held in custody for more than three months. Only recently my predecessor drew the attention of the Central Criminal Court to the number of remand prisoners awaiting trial at that court. On February 26 we had 18 inmates who had been awaiting trial for more than three months. The longest wait has been for 13 months for an inmate who went for trial in November, 1980, at the Central Criminal Court but a re-trial was ordered and a date has now been fixed for later this month.

Although a list of prisoners awaiting trial is sent from the prison every month to the Deputy Circuit Administrator, South East Circuit, the Pentonville Board of Visitors, being mindful of its "watchdog" role envisaged by the May committee, believes that this is one area in which it is admirably fitted to keep the proper authorities informed of the current situation with regard to prisoners held on remand in its own prison. We have been successful on several occasions in expediting court appearances.

Yours faithfully,
RACHEL GIBBS, Chairman, Board of Visitors,
HM Prison, Pentonville,
Caledonian Road, N7.
March 4.

Tower of Babel

From Mr Richard Cottrell, MEP for Bristol (Conservative)

Sir, Readers of *The Times*—and indeed your own political correspondent, Mr David Wood—should not feel that members of the European Parliament do not wish to tackle the "*Tower of Babel*" predicament which faces all the institutions of the European Community. It is perfectly true, as your correspondent suggested on February 25, that the situation has been allowed to drift.

However, as a Conservative who is deeply interested in good housekeeping in the European Parliament, I have produced a motion for a resolution which is not only intended to arrest the drift but also to set down new guidelines in advance of the accession of further member states.

My proposal is quite simply to create two language categories, instead of the present one. I have suggested to the Bureau of Parliament that all the present *official* languages—English, French, German, Italian, Danish, Dutch and Greek—retain that status but that a new category should be created of principal *working* languages. Only English, French, German and Italian would fall into this category. The result would be that members would retain the right to speak and be heard in their own tongues (in other words, interpreted in the Plenary of Parliament and in all official committee meetings) but working documents—other than the final decisions of Parliament—would only be translated into the principal working languages. By this means a great deal of the *parliamentary paper-chase*, where the real waste occurs, would be brought to an end.

Additional to this proposal is that no new languages consequent upon accession of further signatories to the treaties would be admitted to the status of principal working languages.

The reaction so far has been most interesting. Belgian Flemish-speaking, Dutch and Greek members have all intimated that they would rather not sign the motion—for quite obvious reasons of internal political pressure—but *would be prepared* to support it as a proposal on the floor of the House. In other words, the sense of reality is there and does ride above an essentially nationalistic approach to the question of language use in the Parliament.

Purists will say that my motion offends the original Regulation One adopted by the Council (*in European terms*) in ancient history. But nothing concerning the Community is or should be set in concrete—and that is why I added a rider to the motion suggesting that the proposal would serve as a useful guideline for other Community institutions. Parliament's determination to settle in one fixed place of work, despite *what the treaties might* say and despite the refusal of the Council to achieve any progress in this area, is due largely to the impatience of backbenchers like myself—who overruled Parliament's own Bureau. We are thus proceeding towards a fixed place of work by a process of logic and I believe that the same will apply to the use of languages in the Parliament. Further, the inspiration for a solution to this problem—if not actually on the basis that I have advanced—is certain to come from the new backbench intake who entered the European Parliament with direct elections in 1979.

Yours sincerely,
RICHARD COTTRELL,
Combeside,
Back Lane,
Croscombe,
Wells,
Somerset.
February 26.

Press curb proposal

From Sir David Napley

Sir, Mr David Flynn's letter to ensure, as he writes, that my advocacy that journalists who "misbehaved" be suspended from their jobs should not go unchallenged (March 6) does not, I fear, do justice to my contention.

Those who defend, as I do, the freedom of the press, oppose the imposition of any unnecessary restriction upon them, but every group, be it a true profession or otherwise, has those who are prepared outrageously to flout the rules. In the process they do irreparable harm; thus the liberal professions couple with the right to practise the right to exclude those who, in the opinion of members of the profession in good repute, behave so as to bring the profession into disrepute.

If journalists wish to preserve their right to investigate, castigate and ensure the punishment of *others who offend, they can hardly* absolve themselves from subjection to a similar process. If a disciplinary body created by themselves, or the Press Council, took power to recommend that those who, by its own standards, brought their profession into disrepute, be denied acceptance of their copy for a stated period of time by editors and others who value proper standards, it would at least provide some sanction for journalists, which is surely lacking today. One is not concerned, as he suggests, to condemn lapses of taste but flagrant disregard of what is fair, just and legal.

Finally, whilst true of David Flynn and many like him that, as he asserts, "the journalist neither has nor claims any rights beyond the citizen's", it is certainly not true of all others. If he was at the same Conference of the Joint Committee the previous year he must have heard some of his colleagues assert, from the floor, that if the choice is between obtaining news and breaking the law then journalists must put themselves above the law. That is wholly unacceptable and, doubtless, it is those who hold *such views who would be the first* to be disciplined under the system which I advocate.

Yours truly,
DAVID NAPLEY,
107-115 Long Acre, WC2.
March 6.

Basis for democracy

From Councillor Eric Robinson

Sir, Ian Bradley (February 24) is right: the Liberal Party and the Social Democrats do need to establish a firmer philosophical base for their policies. In doing so, they are of course faced with a predicament: how to achieve that end without falling into the trap of dogma and doctrine which is proving the downfall of Tories and socialists alike.

I would recommend the development of the mixed economy concept. As a Liberal I recognize the two polarities of the community *and the individual in modern* society. As a politician searching for policies and for solutions to problems both large and small I seek resolution by posing the question, "Is the good to the community by this course of action outweighed by the harm to the individual, or the good to the individual outweighed by the damage to the community?"

It may sound crude and homespun, but on most issues rational analysis based upon those questions does provide an answer which satisfies me and, more importantly, can be explained to others clearly and simply. It is a principle as free from the vagaries of pragmatism as it is from the prejudices of dogma.

Yours faithfully,
ERIC ROBINSON,
The Vine Cottage,
Bridgnorth, Shropshire.

Duty-free impedimenta

From Mr Terry Miller

Sir, I do so agree with Mrs Hall's suggestion (letter, February 26) that airports should allow passengers to buy duty-free goods on arrival rather than on departure. I have never understood why this could not be done since it would *appear to have other practical* advantages to commend it.

For the cabin crews it would mean the end of a time-consuming chore which must be particularly irritating on short-haul flights. For the passenger it would mean less hand baggage to lug about the airport and on to the plane; less clutter and more room on the plane; and a more leisurely departure. For most people, too, I suspect, a less frantic opportunity to buy duty-free goods since one is less likely to have deadlines to meet on arrival.

Could someone tell us all what the obstacles to this proposal are?

Yours faithfully,
TERRY MILLER,
Odstone,
Westcot Lane,
Westcot,
Near Wantage,
Oxfordshire.
February 26.

Pat argument

From Mr George Scales

Sir, I am much against Russia as a political regime and in favour of Eton and other non-state schools ("Eton getting subsidized EEC butter", March 6). However, if the food mountain is to be reduced, selling surplus butter to Russia will achieve that objective, whereas selling it to schools and other bodies within the EEC will not, for the simple reason that those schools and other bodies would presumably *buy either non-subsidized* butter or margarine made from oilseed rape, an equally important EEC agricultural product.

The "mountain" can only be reduced either if the schools, etc, consume a greater overall quantity because of the subsidy than they otherwise would, which is extremely doubtful, or if the products are sold *outside the EEC*.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE SCALES,
Cobbler's Pieces,
Abbess Roding, Ongar, Essex.
March 7.

From Mrs Ann Macdonald

Sir, Why pick on Eton? As I understand it any educational establishment is entitled to subsidized EEC butter. Mrs Buchan (report, March 6) does not say how many schools in the public sector take up this entitlement.

I imagine that most parents of Etonians are both tax and ratepayers and therefore subsidize not only their offsprings' butter but also the local authority schools in their area.

Would Mrs Buchan prefer all schools to be deprived of the chance of cheap butter and for the butter mountain to be sold to Russia? On the other hand, perhaps she would prefer all schools except Eton to have cheap butter.

Yours faithfully,
ANN MACDONALD,
Radwinter Manor House,
Saffron Walden,
Essex.
March 6.

Cheaper overdrafts on the way but big cut unlikely in mortgages

Preparing for a fall in interest rates

Precisely what Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Chancellor, is going to say about interest rates this afternoon remains a secret for a few hours longer. But it is clear that short-term interest rates are about to come down; and it is equally clear that interest rates are likely to fall rather less sharply than others.

In the money markets most short-term interest rates have already fallen steeply over recent weeks as speculation on a reduction in the Bank of England's minimum lending rate has grown. Against MLR at 14 per cent, three-month interbank rates are already down to 12.5 per cent and three months Treasury bills have fallen well below the 12 per cent level.

It is only very short-term interest rates that have held up. These rates are rather more directly influenced by the level of MLR. Only last week the discount houses finished up borrowing heavily from the Bank of England at MLR to make good the shortage of funds caused by the half-yearly payment of petroleum revenue tax.

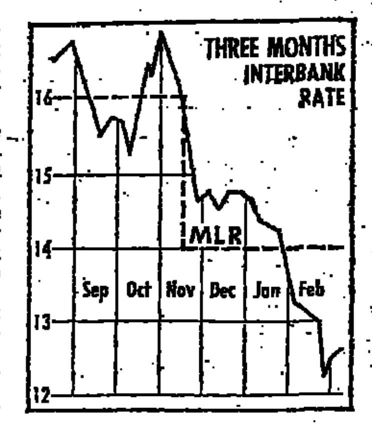
Assuming that MLR comes down—and a two-point cut from 14 to 12 per cent is the common prediction—then the cost of bank overdrafts and mortgages should come down quickly too.

Indeed, the banks' base lending rates would almost certainly come down within 24 hours of a cut in MLR, and in all probability by the same amount. Base rates at 12 per cent would imply a 13 per cent borrowing cost for blue chip industrial and commercial borrowers, and a 15-17 per cent interest charge for most personal customers.

That may still sound a heavy cost when one allows for the fact that the underlying rate of inflation is around 8 per cent. But if all goes according to plan, the Government will almost certainly be counting on making a further reduction in interest rates during the summer.

Home buyers may be less fortunate. It looks unlikely that the building societies will be able to cut their basic mortgage rates by more than one point, from 14 to 13 per cent on the back of a 12 per cent MLR.

There are two main reasons. First, the "composite" tax rate which the societies pay on behalf of investors is likely to go up from 22.5 per cent to around 26 per cent next month, squeezing their margins.



More important is the fact that the societies are going to have to compete fiercely against the Government for the savings they need. Their lending programme could rise from £9,400m last year to some £11,000m as the housing market starts to pick up again.

The competition from the Government for the personal sector's savings is likely to be formidable. Although the present 15 per cent (gross) rate offered by the National Savings Bank Investment Account is likely to be reduced later this spring, and though the present Nineteenth Issue of Savings Certificates (offering 18.35 per cent net per annum, if held for five years) is likely to be replaced with a lower yielding issue, National Savings interest rates are going to be maintained at attractive levels.

In addition, the Chancellor may well lower still further the age limit for index linked certificates. The societies fear this could drain a lot of money held by people approaching retirement age and who are presently more concerned with preserving their capital than generating income.

Either way, the Government now has a considerable armoury at its disposal. It can hold National Savings interest rates above private sector interest rates when the general trend in interest rates and inflation is downwards; and it can push index linked issues hard when the general trends are the other way.

John Whitmore

Inquiry into phenol dumping

The European Commission has begun to investigate complaints that United States producers of phenol and phenol salts have been dumping their goods on the EEC market.

The European Council of Chemical Manufacturers Federations says that American phenol has been sold in Europe with a dumping margin of around 20 per cent. Imports into the EEC rose by more than 300 per cent to 50,683 tonnes in 1979 from 12,140 tonnes in 1977 and reached 46,367 tonnes in the first half of last year.

The market share held by United States producers rose to 9.3 per cent in the first six months of 1980 from 1.3 per cent in 1977. The commission will be looking into charges that the cheap American imports have led to falling use of capacity and financial losses in the European industry.

Harvester credit

International Harvester has reached tentative agreement with eight advisory banks on proposed terms for a three-year revolving credit. This will replace short-term bank borrowings totalling about $1,500m (£680m) and $1,900m respectively.

French steel output

French steel production dropped by 21.5 per cent in February from a year ago to 1.722 million tons, bringing the total for the first two months to 3.463 million, a decline of 21.7 per cent from the same period in 1980.

Capital spending rise

Japanese industries plan to increase capital spending by an average 8.6 per cent in fiscal 1981 starting next month to a total 11,330,000m yen (£23,506m) from an estimated 10,430,000m this year.

Contract extended

Iran has extended until the end of this year the Talbot contract to supply Paykan car kits to the Iran national motor company.

India gold venture

India is prospecting for gold in six of its 22 states under an exploration programme to run until 1985.

Higher Swiss prices

The Swiss consumer price index rose by an annual 6 per cent in February compared with 5.1 per cent in January.

Brewers fear attack on fruit machine profits

By Derek Harris

Publicans, brewers and operators of working men's clubs are only not worrying about an increase in the price of whisky, wine or a pint of beer. The ubiquitous fruit machine, source of a big slice of brewing industry and club profits, could also be at risk.

The danger to the profits of those machines with unlimited jackpots, to be found only in clubs is greatest, two new surveys on the machines by London stockbrokers.

While fruit machines in pubs with their restricted maximum payouts are estimated to be producing as much as 20 per cent of individual brewers' pre-tax profits, the jackpot machines are believed to be yielding at least £550m a year for the clubs.

The 37,000 jackpot machines in United Kingdom clubs produces an average annual profit of £15,000, which can be as high as £35,000. Such a figure indicates annual profits to the clubs of almost double the £700m a year profit of the brewing industry, according to Mr Colin Mitchell, drinks trade analyst of Buckmaster & Moore.

Jackpot profits are put at between £13,000 and £15,600 a machine annually by Mr Philip Shaw, drinks trade analyst at L. Messel & Company.

One way would be to gear up fees for licences necessary before machines can be operated, which have not been changed since 1969.

With jackpot machines in clubs licensed under the Gaming Act, there is a £100 fee for the first machine and £200 for subsequent machines. There is a maximum 10p stake but jackpots are unlimited, sometimes being as much as £100.

Company car drivers thwart petrol curbs

By Bill Johnstone

The Department of Energy is concerned that its attempts to curb demand for petrol are being thwarted because much of the recent increase in consumption is accounted for by company cars.

The department fears that any increase in the road fund licence or in the price of petrol in today's Budget *will do little* to cut demand because company car drivers with expense accounts are less likely to be deterred by price increases.

According to figures published by the department, use of petroleum products has decreased except for aviation fuel and motor spirit. In the last year petrol consumption has increased by 2.5 per cent.

Aplin Phillimore, which conducts regular studies into car use, says that there are now 14.4 million cars in Britain of which 20 per cent are company owned. They account for between 35 and 40 per cent of fuel used.

The department is also concerned that the real price of petrol has not kept pace with inflation and hopes that the increases expected in today's budget will at least account for the differential if they do not act as a deterrent to increasing consumption.

The Government has attempted to increase revenue gathered from drivers with the benefit of use of a company car. The tax penalty over the next year will be £230, although this will be halved if the annual mileage is more than 18,000 miles and increased by half if the mileage is less than 1,000.

An attempt was made in 1979 to resolve the problem of companies giving cars as a perk but there was strong resistance to the consultative document.

Chemicals capital investment forecast to fall by 20pc

By John Huxley

Investment in mainstream chemicals plant and equipment is expected to fall by more than one fifth in real terms this year, according to forecasts published by the industry yesterday. Further declines are likely in 1982 and 1983.

The heavy cuts in capital spending now planned reflect the difficulties being faced by the industry, which is suffering from overcapacity in the production of many bulk products and poor profitability.

The industry is traditionally an important investor, and yesterday's figures published by the Chemical Industries Association, will come as bad news for many sectors of the economy which look to it for much-needed orders and jobs.

Mr Martin Trowbridge, director general of the association, said the results of the survey seemed surprisingly optimistic in view of the considerable business problems of chemicals makers.

"As you dig deeper it becomes apparent that many of the companies indicating the possibility of investment are assuming a major rejigging of government policy regarding feedstock and energy costs, sterling parity and interest rates."

Mr Trowbridge added that it would be only after todays Budget that the industry would have a better idea of whether the Government was prepared to take a more realistic view of its difficulties. "Certainly, if the survey's intentions come to pass, Britain will maintain its high place in Europe's chemical manufacturing league table—at the moment that is a big 'if'."

The CIA's survey shows that the industry spent a record £1,340m on investment in the United Kingdom last year. In real terms, however, this was 2 per cent down on 1979.

Lummus may use Compeda plant design system worldwide

British computer software has taken a big step forward in the North American market with the recent award of a multi-million dollar contract by Lummus, the American engineering construction organization, to Compeda, the National Research and Development Corporation subsidiary.

Compeda's plant design management system will be used in five Lummus locations in North America and Europe at first, but there is an option to extend the system to all Lummus locations throughout the world and to other companies within the parent Combustion Engineering group.

Icing tests are among the many climatic extremes which can be reproduced in the test chambers of British Aerospace's environmental engineering laboratories at Stevenage.

Technology News

Engineering centres in Bloomfield, New Jersey; Houston, Texas; Toronto and Calgary, Canada; London; and The Hague will take the system first. The Compeda system will be connected to other systems for pipework detail design and material control, using the company's Control Data mainframe computers.

The system provides a complete design database from which information can be extracted in any form for the contractor and which can be used as a standard data-exchange document from plant designer to plant constructor and later to the plant owner.

According to Compeda, this is the first time that a computer package has had sufficient power and scope to make this possible.

The designer can use the system to build up a complete three-dimensional model of a process plant within the computer, in such a way that design analysis, construction drawings and information are produced as required.

Any part of the computer model created by the designer can be called up and shown in detail, either on a graphics screen or on a full-sized engineering drawing. This enables the designer to see where design modifications are necessary and their effect, and enables him to use the computer to refine the design to obtain the best equipment and pipework layout.

Test and design link

Advanced structural modelling techniques which bring the processes of design and testing more closely together are being applied in the environmental engineering department of British Aerospace Dynamics Group at Stevenage, Hertfordshire.

The company says that the increase in the application of structural modelling to the design process will be one of the greatest changes in technology in mechanical engineering over the next 10 years.

By using a computer to create mathematical models of structures from both experimental and analytical data, it is possible to model the most complex structures.

The model may then be used to predict the behaviour of a design, to assess the effect of design changes, and so to eliminate the traditional, time-consuming, method of trial-and-error.

Severe vibration problems on complex structures have been solved at Stevenage using these techniques. A comprehensive service is now available which offers experimental analysis, system modelling, and fatigue analysis. The overall result is one of the most powerful computer-aided design tools available.

The environmental engineering laboratories have recently been reequipped and modernized in a programme costing £1m, and the company is offering its facilities to outside customers in addition to its use for testing missiles and other products of the dynamics group.

These facilities also include a range of vibration and climatic test chambers and rigs. Different factors can be simulated at the same time—for example, the effects of temperature, humidity, altitude, solar radiation, contamination, corrosion and mould growth.

Wind tunnel for car

A special wind tunnel at the Department of Industry's National Maritime Institute at Feltham is being used in the design and testing of a Formula 1 grand prix racing car. The main addition to the tunnel for this purpose is that of a "rolling road" on which the vehicle will run.

The institute and McLaren International, are using the tunnel to develop the Marlboro MP4/1 car. A one-third model of the car is being used in the tunnel which measures 2.7 metres by 2.1 metres.

The combination of the road and the wind tunnel will enable the aerodynamic forces on scale models of virtually all types of road vehicles to be assessed much more accurately.

Vehicles aerodynamics forms one of a number of industrial aerodynamics projects which were inherited by the institute from the National Physical Laboratory. Others include the wind tunnel testing of long-span bridges, tall buildings, offshore platforms and other types of structures.

Kenneth Owen

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Regenerating farm investment

From Major-General S. K. Lecky

Sir, In his article in *The Times* of March 3, Richard Butler rightly drew attention to the indirect consequences of depressed agricultural returns under the common agricultural policy (CAP) for industries supporting the farmer in his task growing the nation's food.

The effect is clearly illustrated by the decline in the sale of tractors and farm machinery to farmers over the last 12 months. During that period real farm incomes have fallen by 24 per cent and as a result the unit sales of tractors in the home market have dropped by 27 per cent and farm machinery by over 20 per cent.

Despite this contraction in investment, the 1981 annual review shows that farm loans have risen by almost 30 per cent to a staggering £2,900m and the interest paid on this debt exceeded the total investment by farmers in agricultural plant and machinery.

The CAP has known dimensions. We are familiar with both its advantages and disadvantages. There is in the farmer's mind a direct relationship between stability and confidence. Therefore, in the interest of regenerating farm investment it would obviously be better to work at minimizing the disadvantages than to shake the CAP kaleidoscope in an attempt to create an entirely new pattern of production and price support.

This is no light matter for agricultural engineering indeed for the economy. Our industry has within its responsibility the incomes of 32,000 families and it is making £530 million contribution to the balance of payments—an uphill task in the face of severe currency disadvantages in export markets. In Europe approximately half a million employees are engaged in the supply of tractors and farm machinery. The ripple effect of a tough farm prices review or radical change to the CAP upon this important industry should not be ignored.

SAM LECKY,
Director General,
Agricultural Engineers Association,
6 Buckingham Gate,
London, SW1.

Referral of mergers

From Mr F. Moseley

Sir, Apparently arbitrary references of bids to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission by Mr Biffen are becoming a commonplace. The latest, that of Enserch for Davy, is referred because "the Company being taken over has assets exceeding £15m". These days almost any merger might be referred on those grounds. One might be forgiven for suspecting that other more questionable chauvinistic motives were behind the decision, which would ill become a Government that extols the virtues of the market.

What are the consequences? The senior management of these businesses comes out well from these referrals; the status quo is maintained and any suspicion of indifferent performance which often may have led to the bid goes unremarked. What about the actual owners to whom the management are supposed to have statutory obligations? Well, they see the value of their investment go sharply lower. It is rather like the bad old days of "planning blight".

There is a market solution open to the Government or to anyone else which would avoid any feeling that the law was being abused. Bid higher.

Yours faithfully,
F. MOSELEY,
30 Somerville Road,
Cobham,
Surrey.

Examining investment incentives

From Mr C. J. Dauris

Sir, Miss Adrienne Gleeson's article on "tax exhaustion" (March 4) shows how concerned we seem to have become to the artificiality of the system. Among the questions which she prompts are these:

Is it sensible for tax incentives for investment to have become so important that they displace commercial ones?

Should we discuss seriously the proposal that unprofitable companies should be subsidized by persons unspecified through paying a rate of interest well below the rate of inflation?

How can companies pay advance corporation tax (ACT) when they are not liable to corporation tax?

The answers, which I at least would give, suggest that we should reduce corporation tax to 10 per cent and abolish all allowances, including in effect ACT. Indeed the Chancellor could go one better and propose the repeal of the tax. With the yield so low at present there could be no better time.

Yours faithfully,
COLIN DAURIS,
Goodalls,
Middle Street,
Nazeing, Essex.

Anomaly in tax allowance

From Mr Ian Liddington

Sir, The Inland Revenue Green Paper *Taxation of husband and wife*, to which Oliver Stanley refers in his article on Budget options (March 2) fails to make clear that married couples, where both are earning, pay *less* tax, expressed as a percentage of total earned income, than single persons.

To explain this strange anomaly it is necessary to go back to the years immediately following the last war—a time of acute labour shortage. It was to help to overcome this shortage that an additional tax allowance was granted to married couples where both were working.

What was considered to be a sensible arrangement when labour was scarce must surely be regarded as foolish in the extreme now that we have high unemployment.

Whether we are in work or without a job, may we not join in condemning a fiscal arrangement which encourages society to damage itself in this way?

Let us hope that in his forthcoming Budget the Chancellor will seek to achieve a more equitable relationship between the tax allowances of married couples both earning and the tax allowances of single persons.

Yours faithfully,
IAN LIDDINGTON,
36 Reigate Hill, Reigate,
Surrey RH2 9NG.

Employment rise at Lonrho

From Mr K. G. Spencer

Sir, I was interested to read from Lonrho's annual report just published, that the number of people employed by the company in the United Kingdom increased by 3,561 to a total of 24,309 during the previous 12 months.

In a time of rising unemployment generally, is this the unacceptable face of capitalism?

Yours faithfully,
K. G. SPENCER,
"White Gable"
247 Hillbury Road,
Warlingham,
Surrey CR3 9TL.

When is credit not credit?

From Mr M. M. Charlish

Sir, Since nothing is for nothing, interest-free credit (Business Diary, March 3) sounds to be the monetary equivalent of the Marquess of Worcester's Wheel, the philosopher's stone and the elixir of perpetual youth all at once. Either the price of the goods is increased by the (concealed) interest or the instant-cash customers are subsidizing those paying by instalments. Both cases result in higher prices and are therefore inflationary.

Does not the use of the term invite investigation under the Trade Descriptions Act?

Yours faithfully,
M. McEWEN CHARLISH,
132 Park Lane,
Carshalton,
Surrey SM5 3DT.

Identification and privacy

From Mr M. N. McLean

Sir, Oh dear. Why, oh why, do the Richard G. Hunts of this world become so indignant when asked to produce some evidence of identity, in this case when making a "substantial withdrawal" from Barclaycard in a branch where he was not known (Letters, March 3)?

I have no reason to doubt that he is a man of the very integrity which he considered "affronted" and, as such, he is known to all his relatives, friends, colleagues, business associates, etc.

However, does he really expect this "integrity" to shine like a beacon wherever he goes, even into the darkest recesses of all the many branches of Barclays Bank and into the souls of all their servants so that he is instantly recognized as "Richard Hunt of Integrity beyond Question"?

My first reaction in cases where people are unwilling to provide additional or alternative means of identification is that they are either ashamed of being who they are or really have some good reason not to reveal themselves too much. Let me hasten to add that I am quite sure that Richard G. Hunt does not fall into either category and that he is indeed a man of integrity otherwise he would not be making his complaint in the columns of *The Times*.

I have only praise, however, for the actions of Barclays Bank staff in the matter, as these were obviously intended to protect the interests of their shareholders, account holders, customers, etc, among whom both myself and Richard G. Hunt are numbered.

How easy it would have been for Mr Hunt's "self-respecting fraudster" to have relieved him of his Barclaycard, practised his signature for a few minutes and immediately presented himself at the nearest Barclays branch to withdraw a "substantial sum" if no questions were asked.

Carry on, Barclays.

M. N. McLEAN,
Greenways,
Burfield Road,
Chorleywood,
Rickmansworth,
Hertfordshire, WD3 5NS.

Management procedures at ICI

From Mr Kevin FitzGerald

Sir, It is clear from his letter that Mr D. N. Lawson (March 5) has a great deal more knowledge of top management procedures in ICI than I was able to acquire in 35 years with the company's lower orders. In all my time I never met a divisional or main board director who was not seriously over-worked and when in the course of that time I was given two or three minor executive posts I quickly discovered why.

Responsibility is exhausting, and none of the big men in ICI, and the company has always been rich in big men, in unbroken succession from Sir Alfred Mond, and Sir Harry McGowan, ever shirked it or, when things went wrong, shrugged it away. At the second annual general meeting of the company, early in 1929, a woman shareholder rose and asked "a D. N. Lawson" question, involving money.

"You must be happy with 8 per cent" Sir Alfred told her. "When we make more we give it to the people who made it for you". His pensioners are still grateful to his successors who maintain all the traditions and do all the hard, dangerous guesswork of the finest business in the world.

Your obedient servant,
KEVIN FITZGERALD,
Crossways,
Mill Lane,
Chinnor,
Oxford OX9 4QU.
March 5.

هكذا من الأصل

THE TIMES BUSINESS NEWS

Stock markets
FT Ind 482.9 down 6.2
FT Gilts 68.61 up 0.25

Sterling
$2.2140 up 200 pts
Index 99.1 up 0.4

Dollar
Index 100.3 down 0.5
DM 2.1150 down 175 pts

Gold
$477.50 up $9

Money
3 mnth sterling 12¼-12⅛
3 mnth Euro-$ 15⅞-16⅛
6 month Euro-$ 16⅛-16¼

IN BRIEF

Hungarian bank to get $400m Euroloan

The National Bank of Hungary is believed to be raising $400m (£180m) through a seven to eight year Eurocredit being arranged through Citicorp.

The loan is said to be a club deal with about six other banks and will bring the country's 1981 Euroloan total to $550m.

There has been market speculation that this new loan would be used to aid Poland, but sources said this was merely an opportune time for Hungary to complete its 1981 Euromarket borrowing.

Robertson rejection

Robertson Foods has described the £19m offer from Avana, the Cardiff-based food group, as wholly inadequate, and says shareholders would suffer a drop in income of 41 per cent if they accepted Avana shares.

Financial Editor, page 19

£19m CEGB contract

Sir Alfred McAlpine & Son (Northern) has been awarded a £19m contract by the Central Electricity Generating Board for superstructure building work on the extension to Drax power station (Drax B).

Tin pact warning

Delegates to the International Tin Council in Geneva were warned by Mr Peter Lai, their chairman, that if agreement was not reached at the current three-week session there might not be enough time to bring a new pact into operation.

Halewood resumption

There was a full resumption of production of the Escort at the £125m Ford car plant at Halewood on Merseyside when 400 foremen and supervisors who had walked out on Friday reported back.

Mill closure cost

Costs of redundancy and closure of Bowater's Ellesmere Port mill which employed 1,600 will be between £24m and £30m depending on the amount raised from the sale of assets.

Aerospace flotation

British Aerospace's public flotation last month cost £3.6m, it was revealed in a parliamentary answer. The bulk of the cost was the 1¼ per cent underwriting commission on the price of the shares, which were offered at 150p.

Ford steel cuts

Ford plans to cut its steel-making operations sharply in Michigan, unless its 5,000 steelworkers agree to pay cuts.

Spanish agreement

Spanish unions and employers have reached an agreement on restructuring the steel industry after four months of negotiations and almost four years of delays.

Wall Street higher

The Dow Jones industrial average closed 11.80 points up to 976.42. The $-SDR was 1.22164. The £ was 0.559231.

Budget squeeze fears send shares down but pound advances

By Our Financial Staff

City views on the Budget outcome varied yesterday. In the foreign exchange market sterling strengthened towards the end of the day as European and American dealers moved to cover short positions in front of the speech by Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer.

On stock markets, ordinary share prices fell on prospects that Sir Geoffrey will tighten the squeeze. The *FT* Ordinary Share Index ended at 482.9, down 6.2 on the day. Government stocks, however, made gains at the "long" end of the market.

The pound, which opened London trading nearly a cent down on Friday's close, steadied during the morning and then surged ahead in the afternoon. It closed up 2 cents from Friday at $2.2140. The Bank of England's effective exchange rate index rose 0.4 on Friday's close to 99.1, reflecting gains against continental currencies as well as the dollar.

Dealers attributed sterling's strength yesterday afternoon to revised Budget expectations by investors abroad. They now expect a deflationary budget with 2 per cent rather than 3 per cent cut in minimum lending rate.

The pound was also boosted by a weaker dollar, in the wake of easier Eurodollar deposit rates and some uncertainty about the course of American interest rates over the next few months.

Optimism in the equity market which ran high at the end of February with the *FT* ordinary shares index rising to 502 on sound hopes of cuts in MLR larger than expected and help to industry, has slowly petered out.

Since then the index has hovered below 500 with leading stocks suffering and dividend reductions from ICI, Fisons and Unilever. By the middle of last week the market had changed its mind about the probability of reflationary measures as a boost to industry. On Friday the index fell 7.1 points to 489.1 and shares generally tumbled.

Apparent leaks at the weekend merely served to confirm those fears. One dealer said: "We would say that about 90 per cent of the Budget has been leaked".

Gilts, which at one time were looking for a rise in MLR of as much as 3 or 4 per cent have since lowered their expectations. But yesterday they were the only stocks to move upwards with longs recording rises of a £1 and shorts at £½. General feeling in the money markets is that there will be a 2 per cent MLR reduction.

Prices continued to drift lower in leading equities with ICI losing 4p to 246p, Glaxo fell 4p to 282p and Fisons was lower 3p at 130p. Distillers dropped 3p to 183p. Lucas Industries fell 6p to 179p and Hawkers dropped 4p to 282p.

Clearing banks took perhaps the worst falls with the market, nervous that they will not escape a windfall profits tax. A more subtle tax, in the form of loans to companies in trouble or further lending for the Export Credit Guarantee Department, was considered unlikely.

Shares in Barclays, which fell 8p last Friday to 398p, clipped another 8p to 390p and Lloyds dropped 6p to 305p, from 323p last week. Midland, which fell 14p on Friday to 321p, lost 3p. National Westminster dropped 3p to 348p—from 365p last week. Dealers, who were so sure only a month ago that a windfall tax would be avoided, feel that shares will not fall much further.

There is little doubt that the breweries and tobacco sectors face increased charges and they appear to have accepted the forecast duty rises. Unless there are a few surprises, such as a 4p rise on a pint of beer, the sectors are not expected to fall too drastically.

Allied Breweries and Bass closed unchanged at 64½p and 210p respectively. Whitbread lost 10p to 149p and Grand Metropolitan closed 2p lower at 172p.

With a bottle of whisky forecast to rise by as much as 90p the distillers suffered slightly larger falls with Arthur Bell down 4p at 158p. Tomatin fell 3p to 99p and Invergordon 2p to 164p. Duty on cigarettes failed to lower shares in the tobacco sector with rises recorded by both BAT which rose 2p at 278p, and Imperial Group, up 1½p to 73½p.

Financial Editor, page 19

Way clear for Cable & Wireless sale

By Patricia Tisdall

The Government intends to sell just under half its shares in Cable & Wireless the State-owned international communications business, in the autumn as soon as the necessary legislation is enacted.

Mr Kenneth Baker, Minister of State for Industry and Information Technology, told the Commons yesterday that discussions with the 30 or so overseas countries where the company operates had produced no objections.

The Government had therefore decided to implement the disposal, subject to obtaining the necessary powers in the British Telecommunications Bill.

Mr Baker expected the sale to raise more than £100m. The eventual figure is expected to be considerably more, with sums of £150m to £175m, mentioned speculatively. Proceeds will go direct to the Exchequer.

A particular worry has been that disposal of government shares would impair Cable & Wireless's ability to negotiate contracts overseas. Fears have also been expressed by among others, Lord Glenamara, the former chairman, that the sale could trigger nationalization moves from foreign governments where strategic communication links are involved.

Mr Eric Sharp, who succeeded Lord Glenamara as chairman four months ago, said yesterday that "there was no absolute guarantee" against nationalization abroad.

He said that privatization would probably mean that subsidiary companies would have to be recast through joint venture subsidiaries or through other changes of structure, with Bahrain and Hongkong singled out for particular mention. Together these two territories represent between 55 and 60 per cent of the company's revenue.

Mr Baker said that the move, which has been criticized by Opposition MPs as dogmatic, was aimed at providing "commercial flexibility and access to financial markets" and to exploit the growth and opportunities in telecommunications.

Mr Sharp said that there had never been any problem in raising finance for expansion in the past. The company which already operates outside the cash limit constraints which affect strictly nationalized concerns is spending about £100m a year at present on investment programmes. About two thirds of this was raised from internal sources and one third from the government. However, given the explosion in demand for telecommunication services Mr Sharp expected the expansion budget to double during the next three years.

"Privatization would ease the scope for joint ventures and enable funds to be raised more easily without recourse to the market," he said.

According to Mr Baker the fact that the British Government would retain a controlling stake in the company provided a solution with which the 30 or so foreign franchisees "feel very comfortable".

While details have still to be worked out, there would be special arrangements made for the 11,600 employees of the company to acquire shares. Because about three-quarters of these are based abroad, there could be no question of confining the sale to British nationals.

Mr Baker assured the Commons that the Government did not intend to interfere with the company's commercial freedom.

Mr Eric Sharp: trend to joint venture companies.

"The Government intends to refrain from using its rights as a shareholder to intervene in the company's commercial decisions."

While direct competition with British Telecom was ruled out as a future activity for Cable & Wireless Mr Sharp indicated that there was a possibility of joint activities particularly in voice and data transmission abroad.

Parliament, page 4

Miners find it hard to spend £40m

By Ronald Kershaw

The Mineworkers' Pension Fund, which wants to invest up to £40m a year in viable industrial projects in Britain, is having problems spending the money.

It has already invested in "nursery" units to provide premises for new businesses, but is now finding itself with money available and nowhere to place it.

The fund, which has assets of more than £630m, has even arranged seminars in five main cities to publicize the facilities which it is able to offer.

The money is paid into the fund by the National Coal Board and its employees, and a spokesman said last night: "We would be more than delighted to consider making further investments in viable enterprises. I must stress that the key word is viable, because we have to protect the interests of our members.

"We tend to give priority to worthwhile enterprises in the coalfields. If people feel they would like to take advantage of the facilities we offer they have only to contact us.

"Having said that, we are bound by normal commercial considerations. We would look into the potential of a project and we would want to know about the people who are running it."

The spokesman said: "Our problem is finding sufficient viable enterprises in which to invest." It is not only looking for new companies, but also companies wishing to expand their activities where there would be likely recipients of assistance, particularly if their plans included switching to coal-burning plant.

BSC ready to set up 'private' offshoots

By Peter Hill
Industrial Editor

The formation of the first of a series of companies to run businesses of the British Steel Corporation and pave the way for eventual privatization is expected to be announced within the next few weeks.

Mr Ian MacGregor, the corporation's chairman, is considering establishing Companies Act companies to run the Stanton and Staveley pipemaking grouping and British Steel Service Centres, the stockholding division whose pricing policies are under attack from private stockholders.

The way was prepared for the establishment of private sector style companies to carry out corporation business last month when the Government agreed to the latest corporate plan and committed £880m over the next year.

There has been increased criticism from private steel producers over alleged unfair pricing, but the formation of separate companies, especially in those areas where the corporation competes with private concerns, is seen as an effective way of allaying fears and making at least some of the corporation's activities more "transparent".

The steel corporation is expected to make the first move with Stanton and Staveley. There are three main centres employing a total of 4,650 workers producing concrete pipes, spun iron pipes and an associate foundry operation. Demand for these products has weakened with the recession and output has been trimmed because of the cutback in local authority spending.

Since the creation of a private sector style company to run the activities of the stockholding subsidiary, which accounts for about 15 per cent of the market would be more significant.

Over the past few months independent stockholders have claimed that British Steel Service Centres was cutting prices unfairly to build up the volume of orders at corporation mills.

The National Association of Steel Stockholders has admitted that proof is hard to establish, but claims to have gathered sizable volume of circumstantial evidence.

Mr MacGregor is expected to be questioned about his plans for the corporation and the prospects of a return to financial stability when he gives evidence tomorrow before an all party committee of MPs which is launching a new investigation into the corporation.

BL will use foreign suppliers if UK cannot meet Metro demand

Clifford Webb
Midland Industrial Correspondent

BL has warned its British component suppliers that it will not hesitate to bring in continental rivals if their deliveries fail to keep pace with its plans to increase production of the Metro, which now accounts for half its total car sales.

It has already nearly doubled production in the four months since the car was launched—from 2,000 Metros a week to 3,900—and wants to reach 4,250 by the middle of next month.

Maintaining the pace of the Metro's success is so vital to BL's recovery plans that Mr Harold Musgrove, head of all the group's car operations except Jaguar, has personally warned component companies that the alternative to supply delays is lost business.

A senior executive of one component manufacturer said yesterday: "Mr Musgrove told us that however much BL has let us down in the past by failing to keep to its forward order schedules, those days are now over.

"He pointed out that since the car was launched in October, production has run ahead of its targets and he expects us to keep our end of the bargain.

"Metro business is like manna from heaven at the moment with the motor industry in the depths of recession. It is well ahead of all other car business and we shall be fighting like hell to see that it stays here."

Trade unions must be kept in the picture about BL's future plans, Mr Kenneth Gill, general secretary of the Technical, Administrative and Supervisory Section of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, said yesterday.

Commenting on reports of extended collaboration between BL and Honda, Mr Gill said: "We want no sell-out of BL. Any deal with another company should be developed on the basis of BL becoming a full-range car and commercial vehicles producer operating on a world scale.

"Anything else, such as BL assembling more Honda models in Britain, would do nothing for BL's long-term prospects."

The next few weeks will be critical. Metro has just gone on sale on the Continent with a target of 100,000 a year—enough to double BL's present sales there. It hopes to sell 30,000 in France and 20,000 in Italy, with the rest spread between the Benelux countries and Germany.

Until it has sufficient sales returns on which to base reliable forecasts, it is delaying the introduction of a third Metro trim and assembly line at Longbridge.

But the ground is already being prepared. Production of the Allegro is now down to 800 a week, allowing management to shut down one of the two lines in an adjoining assembly shop.

This will clear the way for Mini production of about 1,200 a week to be switched from the Metro shop, vacating the third line for its newer brother.

An indication of BL's growing confidence in its workers is its plan to increase Metro line speed from the 25 an hour reached during the past two months to 28.5 an hour next month. Only a year ago such a radical move would have led to months of acrimonious talks with shop stewards and almost inevitably a strike.

Since the beginning of the year Longbridge production has exceeded 6,000 cars a week. Using the industry's best yardstick, percentage of gross line rate, that means something in excess of 90 per cent—an almost unheard of achievement for the state-owned group.

A 25 per cent increase in productivity is putting another £15 a week into pay packets under a new incentive scheme. But more significantly Metro is giving Longbridge workers a pride they have not had for a long time.

Unconfirmed weekend reports from Tokyo suggesting that Honda wants to extend its collaboration with BL to include the manufacture of the Metro in Japan has added more icing to the cake.

Whatever the truth—and there are serious doubts—the fact that Mr Kiyoshi Kawashima, president of Honda, should float the idea shows that the all-conquering Japanese have been so impressed by Metro's success that they want to be associated with it, if in name only.

President to call for $48,600m cuts

From Frank Vogl
Washington, March 9

President Reagan will send his detailed budget programme to Congress tomorrow proposing sweeping tax reductions and vast cuts in government spending and lending.

spending cuts for the coming fiscal year of a record $48,600m (£22,090m). He said: "I am

The President said that his budget messages would call for determined to cut the spending juggernaut".

The administration will submit a full revision of the budget programme proposed by President Carter for the 1982 fiscal year, which starts on October 1. There will be proposals for some large changes in spending this year, and detailed projections of the trends of public spending and lending for the next four years.

President Reagan gave some details in a speech to Congress on February 18.

The documents to be sent to Capitol Hill will provide detailed plans for every area of government from defence and foreign military assistance to aid for ailing American cities.

The scale of the proposed cuts in government spending, involving reductions in more than 400 separate programmes for the next fiscal year, is unprecedented. So far Congress has taken a generally positive approach to the President's call for fiscal restraint. But the real battles start tomorrow, when congressmen hear the details and see many of their pet programmes facing decimation and hear loud protests from constituents and special interest lobbies.

The spending cuts are to be accompanied by a long list of proposals for a reduction in government loan programmes. The federal government plans lending through guarantee programmes, government-sponsored semi-independent agencies and special bureaux of the government, that total more than $80,000m (about £36,000m) in this fiscal year alone. The White House will reveal details tomorrow of how it plans to cut $13,600m from this year's credit programmes and more than $21,000m from next year's.

The biggest cuts will be made in loans to housing, with some agricultural, education and energy areas being hard hit as well. The administration believes that private investment in the United States is being hindered because of the large scale of government borrowing in the markets and that many sectors subsidized through government loan programmes ought now to pay full market interest rates for their cash.

Tomorrow's budget will be very different from the British one. President Reagan cannot change the course of fiscal policy with speed, order swift changes in tax rates and influence credit markets immediately with striking new policy declarations. He merely proposes, while Congress disposes.

Tomorrow sees the official start of what congressmen expect will be a thoroughly exhausting four or five months of very detailed bargaining with the White House over every element in a budget involving around $740,000m in outlays.

The American budget for next year will look very different after President Reagan has made compromises than the picture that the White House will present tomorrow.

250 jobs to go as Reed closes mill

By David Hewson

Reed International's paper and board subsidiary is to close its newsprint mill at Gravesend, Kent, with the loss of 250 jobs.

The decision, which was blamed on the strength of sterling, and high inflation, particularly energy, leaves the group with one remaining newsprint mill at Aylesford, Kent, where 700 jobs were lost last year.

Imperial Paper Mills at Gravesend was once an important paper-making centre. Two years ago Reed spent £1m turning the plant from a multi-product mill into a newsprint producer, using an increased proportion of recycled fibre.

Announcing that the company would close at the end of June, the company said yesterday: "The decision to close has been taken with great regret, but Imperial has incurred heavy losses for several years both in its original form as a multi-product mill and following the decision in April 1979 to restructure as a single product newsprint mill".

The closure will mean the reduction of Reed's newsprint production capacity in Britain to 55,000 tonnes a year from more than 155,000 tonnes a year ago. Reed's newspaper subsidiary, the Mirror Group, is a large user of the output, but there is also a substantial number of customers outside the company.

Japanese steel cutbacks

Tokyo, March 9.—The Japanese steel industry will continue to cut crude production after an unexpectedly sharp decline in domestic demand, industry sources said.

They say crude steel production will fall 15.3 per cent in the April-June quarter to 24.80 million tonnes from 29.28 million a year earlier.

Current January-March quarter production is estimated at 24.50 million tonnes, down 13.9 per cent from 28.46 million a year earlier.

It will be the first time in three years that Japan's quarterly crude steel production has fallen below 25 million tonnes for two consecutive quarters.

Crude production in January fell to a 34-month low of 8.32 million tonnes, down 13.8 per cent from 9.65 million a year earlier.

The industry started heavy production cutbacks late last year to complete inventory adjustments by the end of the current quarter.

In the face of unexpectedly sluggish domestic demand, particularly from construction interests and partly because of heavy snowfalls, there had been no big progress in inventory adjustment so far, the sources said.

US seeks curbs on Japanese cars

From Our US Economics Correspondent
Washington, March 9.

America is pressing the Japanese to agree on voluntary restraints on car exports, Mr Malcolm Balridge, the Secretary of Commerce, *told a congressional hearing today.*

Key cabinet decisions are expected to be taken within the next two weeks on aid to the ailing American car industry.

Mr William Brock, the American Trade Representative, said that the Reagan administration favoured government - to - government negotiations in solving trade disputes. He opposed legislation that would set specific limits on the number of Japanese cars sold here.

Proposals are being developed in the Senate to legislate import quotas and these have strong support from the United States car manufacturers and the United Auto Workers Union.

The administration believes that it must reach a swift pact *with the Japanese and complete* its car aid programme most rapidly if it is to avoid facing intense congressional pressure for outright protectionist actions.

PRICE CHANGES

Rises

Broken Hill	25p to 705p	MIM Hldgs	7p to 203p
Carlton Ind.	8p to 273p	Royal Worcester	7p to 275p
Haden Carrier	6p to 212p	Staffs Potts	5p to 58p
Hampton Gold	15p to 225p	Weeks Pet	10p to 425p
Kinross	13p to 544p	Western Mining	7p to 249p

Falls

De La Rue	15p to 615p	Joseph L.	10p to 253p
Electrcomps	20p to 648p	Lasmo	10p to 612p
First Castle	6p to 95p	Scholes G. H.	25p to 223p
GUS "A"	9p to 466p	Shell	8p to 410p
Guthrie	12p to 750p	Unitech	8p to 230p

THE POUND

	Bank buys	Bank sells		Bank buys	Bank sells
Australia $	1.95	1.87	Norway Kr	12.35	11.70
Austria Sch	34.70	32.50	Portugal Esc	126.00	120.00
Belgium Fr	81.25	77.25	South Africa Rd	2.05	1.91
Canada $	2.68	2.59	Spain Pta	193.50	184.50
Denmark Kr	15.25	14.45	Sweden Kr	10.65	10.10
Finland Mkk	9.42	8.92	Switzerland Fr	4.43	4.20
France Fr	11.30	10.80	USA $	2.24	2.17
Germany DM	4.84	4.60	Yugoslavia Dnr	78.50	73.00
Greece Dr	115.00	109.00			
Hongkong $	12.00	11.40			
Ireland Pd	1.31	1.25			
Italy Lir	2330.00	2220.00			
Japan Yn	479.00	453.00			
Netherlands Gld	5.32	5.06			

Rates for small denomination bank notes only, as supplied yesterday by Barclays Bank International Ltd. Different rates apply to travellers cheques and other foreign currency business.

£200,000 in golden handshakes marks the end of a gaming venture

Ladbroke's pays up for the bet that failed

Ladbroke is to pay more than £200,000 in "golden handshakes" to six directors of City & Provincial Gaming Holdings, the company set up 16 months ago in an attempt to save the gambling licences of its four London casinos. C&PGH will now be directly responsible to the Ladbroke main board.

Mr Cyril Stein, Ladbroke chairman, said: "I think the *payments* are fair and reasonable considering the executive directors have been with the group for eight or nine years."

City & Provincial was set up in October, 1979 as a holding company independent of the Ladbroke main board, which the group hoped would enable the London casinos to continue to operate.

The move failed and during a court case which branded Ladbroke as not "fit and proper persons" to hold a gaming licence, the group lost licences for the Park Tower in Knightsbridge, the Hertford Club, the Park Lane Casino and the Ladbroke Club. Negotiations are in progress to sell three of these, but not as casinos.

Highest of the C&PGH termination payments goes to Mr Geoffrey Spreckley, one time Ladbroke main board member, who ran Ladbroke Entertainments and was managing director of C&PGH, and Mr Michael Surridge, a director of a number of Ladbroke subsidiaries.

Mr Spreckley receives £94,800 plus £15,206 which would have been paid into Ladbroke's executive pension scheme. Mr Surridge will receive £48,985.

Mr Roy August, former group chief accountant of Ladbroke and finance director of C&PGH, will receive £20,000.

Mr Spreckley, Mr August and Mr Surridge will also retain the use of company cars, which had a book value at the end of last year of £15,540 and will have the option to buy them

Mr Edward Choppen, the chairman, will receive £15,000, and three non-executive directors will be paid £10,000 each.

Mr Spreckley has the option to continue with Ladup the casino-operating subsidiary of C&PGH, on a six-month consultancy at £1,500 a month and Mr August is to have a three-month consultancy agreement at £500 a month.

Taking C&PGH under direct control of Ladbroke marks the end of its involvement in casinos, which had been developed in the decade from 1968 when as a publicly quoted company it rose from owning 100 or so betting shops to having the country's largest chain of betting offices and being the United Kingdom's biggest casino operations.

In May last year, the group decided to pull out of casino operations and has since sold eight in the provinces for a £5.6m surplus over book value.

C&PGH was asso responsible for running Ladbroke's lottery activities and its bingo and social clubs. Last year it withdrew from lottery consultancy and will now run only the bingo social club activities. The subsidiary is expected to earn a trading profit of £3.5m before tax and extraordinary items in the year to last December.

Philip Robinson

Stock markets

Gilts in demand but equity prices tumble

The prospect of an uncompromising Budget sent a nervous shudder through the market and equities tumbled further.

Jobbers marked prices sharply lower from the outset in an attempt to discourage further selling and keep their books "level" after Sir Geoffrey Howe's speech. This followed gloomy weekend newspaper reports which offered little hope of reflationary moves.

Nevertheless, business was thin and most sellers had completed their transactions by mid-morning, at which point the index was showing a fall of 6.6 points. Leading industrials again bore the brunt of the falls although one or two cheap buyers were seen at the lower levels. Sentiment was again not helped by the one-day strike by civil servants and the strength of the pound which rose 2 cents to $2.2140.

By the close the *FT* Index had recovered slightly to register a fall of 5.6 to 483.5.

Government securities on the other hand were in good form with dealers almost certain of a 2 per cent cut in the minimum lending rate to 12 per cent. Buying in a thin market hoisted prices in longs by as much as £1 at the close while in shorts the gains were restricted to around £½.

Dealers seemed surprised by the latest surge in demand. Most were betting on a 2 per cent fall in interest rates but had not ruled out the possibility of a 3 per cent reduction.

Leading industrials again led the market down as the lack of investment demand saw prices drift throughout the day. Further worries of reduced dividends saw **Dunlop** fall 2p to 59p an **Lucas Industries** 6p to 179p, both ahead of figures due out soon. Meanwhile, among those to have already announced reduced dividend payments, **ICI** fell 4p to 246p, **Unilever** 5p to 478p, **Fisons** 3p to 130p. **GKN** remained unchanged at 138p. Others to lose ground included **Glaxo** 4p to 282p, **Beechams** 1p to 162p, **Courtaulds** 2p to 59p and **Hawker Siddeley** 4p to 282p.

Banks, now faced with the prospect of a windfall profits tax, encountered further losses as jobbers deterred prospective sellers by marking prices lower in generally thin conditions.

Barclays was 8p cheaper at 390p followed by **Lloyds** 6p to 305p, with **National Westminster** on 348p and **Midland** on 318p shedding 3p each.

The prospect of increased duty also did little for drinks and tobaccos, although here losses were minimal. Dealers in breweries said that a rise of up to 3p a pint had been generally discounted so **Allied** closed all square at 64½p along with **Bass** at 210p, but falls of 2p were seen in **Whitbread** at 149p and **Grand Metropolitan** at 172p. In the meantime, rumours of 50p on a bottle of spirits left **Distillers** 3p easier at 163, **Arthur Bell** 4p at 158p, **Tomatin** 3p at 99p, **Highland Distillers** 3p at 89p and **Invergordon** 2p at 164p. In tobaccos several small improvements were to be seen in **Imperial Group**, 1½p higher at 73½p, and **BAT's** 2p up at 278p.

Stores closed generally easier in light trade. Early support for supermarkets, which have reported demand for pre-Budget cigarettes and drinks, soon faded. **Tesco** closed with a ½p net rise on the day at 57p, but **J. Sainsbury** softened 1p to 335p, after 338p. Elsewhere, **GUS 'A'** retreated 4p to 466p, **Marks & Spencer** 3p to 118p and **Boots** 4p to 228p.

On the bid front, **Bond St Fabrics** rose 4p to 34p after the bid approach from Grovebell, but **NCC Energy** dipped 2p to 114p on profit taking after last week's announcement that it was in talks with United Nuclear Corporation of the United States.

Davy Corporation continued to reflect the reference to the Monopolies Commission of the Enserch bid, sliding another 1p to 148p. **British Sugar** held steady at 268p still awaiting the findings of the report into the bid from S & W Berisford. Talk of a bid from Hawker, Siddeley, to mop up the rest of **Carlton Industries** saw the price rebound 8p to 273p while profit taking left **Channel Tunnel** 33p lower at 142p.

Results due this morning from Pentos, the publishing to garden furniture group, could make depressing pre-Budget reading. Pentos has abandoned its acquisitive stance and disposed of two publishing subsidiaries and a large share stake since January. Interim figures in September showed halved profits, and more than doubled interest costs. The shares have been holding their breath at 29p for ten days now, after establishing a new low of 24p a fortnight ago.

In papers, **Bunzl Pulp** advanced 2p to 125p amid suggestions of a bid from **Bowater** down 8p at 197p with estimates of the closure of the latter's Ellesmere Port plant now standing at £24m to £29m. News of the closure of its Gravesend plant lopped 5p from **Reed International** at 210p.

Reduced dividend and a disappointing profits statement left **Geo H. Scholes** 25p down at 223p and wiped 13p from **Neil Spencer** at 44p. Others to lose ground included **S. W. Farmer** 2p to 150p and **R. Green** 2p to 87p, while the profits contraction at **Parker Knoll** was fully expected so the shares held steady at 110p. However, the small improvement in profits at **Galliford Brindley** was rewarded with a 2p rise to 74p.

BTR, which is waiting figures dipped 6p to 388p **Rentokil** reflecting recent figures, fell 8p to 142p, but **Campari International** rallied 4p to 52p and **Telefusion 'A'** improved 4p to 38p

Still making the most from the Royal wedding preparations, **Staffordshire Potteries** ended 5p dearer at 58p and **Royal Worcester** rose 7p to 275p.

Equity turnover on March 6, was £140.813m (17,742 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to the Exchange Telegraph, were Plessey, Bowater, NCC Energy, Barclays Bank, Channel Tunnel, GH Scholes, Foster Bros, ML Meyer, ICI, Royal Insurance, Thomas Tilling, Rank Org, S & W Berisford, Phillips Lamp, Utd Scientific, Dalgety, Dowty, Marks & Spencer, KCA Int, GRE, Debenhams, Hanson Tst, Euro Ferries, Reed Int, and Malaysia Rubber.

Traded options: Dealers reported little demand with only 767 contracts made.

Traditional options also encountered little demand despite the introduction of news dates with calls made in Town & City on 2½p and Lonrho on 9p.

Latest results

Company Int or Fin	Sales £m	Profits £m	Earnings per share	Div pence	Pay date	Year's total
Bogod Pelepah (I)	3.06(2.53)	0.03(0.22)	—(—)	0.1(0.19)	23/4	—(—)
S W Farmer (F)	15.4(13.8)	1.0(1.2)	26.14(25.37)	6.1(6.1)	—	9.17(9.17)
Galliford Brindley (I)	35.37(30.4)	1.38(1.29)	6.36(6.09)	1.13(1.13)	2/4	4.63(4.13)
R Green (I)	1.87(2.16)	0.5(0.74)	2.42(3.35)	0.7(0.7)	27/4	—(2.2)
Merchants Tst (F)	—(—)	3.4(3.05)	4.2(3.8)	2.4(—)	18/5	4.15(3.75)
Murray Glendvn (I)	—(—)	0.23(0.26)	3.0(3.09)	0.9(0.8)	10/4	—(2.55)
Neil & Spencer (F)	27.4(21.9)	0.26*(1.74)	0.1(10.3)	0.7(2.1)	5/8	2.1(3.5)
Parker Knoll (I)	13.3(15.2)	1.13(2.05)	8.9(15.5)	2.5(2.5)	17/4	—(7.0)
G H Scholes (I)	6.72(7.27)	0.39(1.02)	5.0(15.1)	4(6)	13/5	—(18.5)

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on ag ross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.428. Profits are shown pre-tax and earnings are net. * Loss.

Galliford up 7pc but facing a hard year

By Peter Wainwright

The construction slump is ending Galliford Brindley's record of 10 years of non-stop growth during which profits rose seven fold.

In the six months to December 31 last the group managed to hoist sales by more than 16 per cent to £35.37m, and to keep pretax profits growing by nearly 7 per cent to £1.38m. However, a tough market will hit the second half year although the directors hope "to achieve a full year result that will be considered satisfactory in the circumstances".

They will be helped by Galliford's spread of interests in building and development, civil engineering, plant hire and heating and ventilating. The interim dividend is again 1.6p gross.

The largest division is building and development, followed by civil engineering with the emphasis on road and bridgework, heating and ventilating with plant hire bringing up the rear. The group has no debt, and maintains cash balances.

This conservative policy apparently encourages suppliers who are eager to do business with Galliford, and customers who are confident that the group has the resources to carry out contracts. But engineering and plant hire have been "severely affected" by a drop in demand, though the main construction companies did well.

The dividends are small compared with earnings a share of 6.36p. For the whole of last year they came to 15.74p, and the total dividend was 6.6p gross. Pretax profits were nearly £3.2m.

Loss ends rapid profits growth at Neil & Spencer

By Michael Prest

A collapse from pretax profits of £1.74m in 1979 to a loss of £264,000 last year pushed shares in Neil & Spencer, the laundry, heat treatment and air-conditioning equipment manufacturer, down 13p to 44p yesterday. The loss ends five years of rapid profit increases.

Mr Stephen Proctor, chairman and managing director, said that the company had been badly affected by reductions in government expenditure. But despite the poor second half a dividend of 1p gross has been declared. The 1979 final dividend was 3p gross.

This brings the full year payout to 3p gross compared with 5p gross in 1979. The board considers that Neil & Spencer's prospects are improving, particularly in sales of military equipment.

Westair-Hargreave, a manufacturer of process drying machinery and specialized equipment such as locks and solar heating systems, was bought at the end of 1979 for £1.7m. Profits were then running at about £550,000 a year, and the company has recently won orders worth £1m to supp[ly] filtration and air conditioni[ng] equipment to the Australi[an] British and Jordanian armies.

But despite an increase [in] sales from £21.9m to £27.4m la[st] year, about £2.5m below the [in]dication given by the board [in] its last annual report, tradi[ng] profits dived from £2.18m [to] £857,000.

The loss was struck af[ter] interest charges more th[an] doubled from £437,000 [to] £925,000. In 1979 the compa[ny] arranged a £750,000 loan fro[m] County Bank to refinance ov[er]drafts and to help with acqui[si]tions.

Reorganization expenses, li[ti]gation over a trade name a[nd] adjustments added exception[al] expenditure of £196,000 to t[he] losses, compared with nil [in] 1979. Final earnings were assi[st]ed by a tax credit of £304,00[0] leaving earnings a share of 0.[1p] against 10.3p.

The strength of sterling c[ut] receipts from foreign sub[si]diaries and exports. Much w[ill] now depend on governme[nt] spending, especially in the mi[li]tary sector, to restore Neil [&] Spencer's growth record.

Sears buys shoe group for $100m

By Our Financial Staff

Sears Holdings, the British Shoe Corporation, Selfridges and William Hill conglomerate with interests in engineering and property, has completed the acquisition of the Butler Shoe division of Zale Corporation of America, known chiefly for is 1,300 jewelry outlets throughout the United States.

Sears paid $100m (£43m) for a group with about 500 retail outlets in 39 states of the United States. Butler made pretax profits of $17m (£7.8m) in the year to March 31, 1980, but recession has pulled them down "slighly" this year.

The completion of the deal ends a three year search for a big United States acquisition. In the year to January 31, 1980, trading profits from the United States and Canada were £2.98m, derived from sales of £32.9m. Total sales were £1,258m and profits £96m.

The acquisition also emphasizes Sears Holdings as a group dominated by footwear. With names like Saxone, Lilley & Skinner, Dolcis, Manfield and Freeman, Hardy Willis, shoes made profits of £59m before interest on sales of £367m in 1979-80.

Mr Leonard Sainer, chairman of Sears Holdings.

Briefly

Cystic Fibrosis Research Investment Trust: Subscription list [in] respect of debenture stock close[d] yesterday with 32 applications fo[r] £57,450 stock representing approxi[mately] 20 per cent of the amount offered.

Murray Glendevon Investment Trust: Interim dividend 1.2[5p] gross (1.14). Pretax revenue fo[r] half year to January 1. £231,0[00] (£258,000). Nav per share 161.5[p] (147.7p at July 31). Estimated e[arnings] year to July 31, 3p (3.29p).

Pirelli General Cable Works Sales for 1980, £123.9[m] (£108.88m). Pretax profit £5.36[m] (£2.43m). CCA figures show lo[ss] after tax £1m (loss £2.5m). Boa[rd] proposes that £530,000 of prof[its] be capitalized and distributed [to] holders in form of fully-pa[id] shares.

Anglo-Indonesian Corpn: Shar[e]holders have approved acquisitio[n] of shares of Era Industries al[ready] owned. Also group h[as] entered into two further c[ontracts] tional contracts with third parti[es] to purchase, at 40p per share, a total of 150,000 ordinary shares in Eva.

Prince of Wales Hotels: Mr A. J. Clayman, chairman, says in circular to shareholders giving details of the proposed acquisitio[n] of Variety Inns, that it is too ear[ly] to comment on outcome of ye[ar] which has just ended. Though current economic climate is diffi[cult], directors look for an with cautious optimism to futu[re] factory trading by enlarged group.

Berkeley Exploration and Produc[tion]: Directors have decided n[ot to] call outstanding 55p per share c[alls on] partly paid shares. It will be du[e] for payment on or before May 1[1].

Cosalt PLC (the ships' chandler based at Grimsby) has acquired assets and goodwill of the Butler Haven Branch of International Wan Fincham, which announced its decision to cease trading on March 6.

Initial Services has agreed term[s] subject to approval by the relevan[t] French authorities, for merging i[ts] French subsidiary, La Serviette de Toilett[e] Franco Americaine SA wi[th] Decroix SA, a company primaril[y] engaged in similar types of operat[ion] in Paris and North-Western France. Initial will have a 35 pe[r] cent interest in the restructure[d] French holding company (to b[e] renamed SA Decroix) with th[e] remaining 65 per cent held b[y] members of the Decroix famil[y].

Poseidon, the Australian minin[g] company which is now chiefly [a] gold producer, made interim ne[t] profits of A$4.17m (2m) durin[g] the six months to the end o[f] December, compared with A$3.18[m] in 1979. Directors have deferre[d] an interim dividend, although la[st] time they paid five cents. Th[e] average gold price received r[ose] by 51 per cent A$544 an ounce.

Double Eagle raises £933,000 with placing

By Catherine Gunn

Double Eagle Energy & Resources has raised C$2.45m (£933,000) through a private placing of 350,000 new shares with a handful of British institutions, it said yesterday. The institutions, which were not named, committed themselves to the shares last week when the C$7 placing price—roughly 267p—was at a premium to the market price.

Double Eagle's shares closed at 300p yesterday, up 10p. Under the rules of the Vancouver Stock Exchange, shares placed privately cannot be sold for 12 months. The placing brings Double Eagle's issued capital to 5m shares, and dilutes Warrior Resources holding from around 24 per cent to about 22 per cent.

The money will be used in new ventures, to be revealed in two weeks' time, and to exploit existing interests in Oklahoma and New Mexico.

TDG to acquire US freight company for $14.5m

By Catherine Gunn

Transport Development Group, which failed with a £22m bid for Giltspur last autumn, is spending $14.5m (£6.6m) on a California freight company, Willig Freight Lines.

The acquisition marks the start of a campaign at TDG to build up a presence in the United States.

"We have been looking for a sizable company as a base", Mr James Lockhart, managing director, said yesterday. The group would like to add warehousing and other freight operations to this base.

Willig Freight Lines was bought through TDG's American holding company, Transport Holdings Inc, a shell company formed to make acquisitions. Mr Eric Anderson, chief executive and former principal shareholder, is to continue to run Willig and has entered into a seven year service agreement. He has sold his holding to TDG, which now wholly owns Willig.

The $14.5m total consideration will be paid in a mixture of cash and loan notes, for tax reasons. The final mix will be established in July. Willig's profits before tax and extraordinary items for the year to December 31, were $2.4m. Its assets, including 300 trucks, are valued at $12.3m.

Willig's main terminal is in Los Angeles. It has eight others throughout California and has recently won interstate rights to transport freight to a new terminal in Phoenix, Arizona.

TDG's own results for the year to December 31 will be announced on Thursday. In the offer document sent to Giltspur shareholders in November, before TDG's £22m bid was beaten by a rival £25.5m offer from Unigate, TDG forecast profits of £21m for 1980, down from £22.3m, assuming no change in sterling.

SW Farmer holds payout despite setback

S. W. Farmer, the south London structural steel group, had a more difficult second half last year but managed to hold the decline in profits to £175,000 at £1.02m in the year to December 31. Sales in the second half rose by a tenth to £7.4m after a one seventh gain in the opening six months and margins were squeezed by higher operating costs.

Mr Brian Farmer, the chairman, says that trading is still depressed but that there has been an upturn in enquiries recently and that strenuous efforts are being made to improve orders worldwide.

Underlining the group's confidence, and the bonus to the balance sheet from a tax credit of £500,000 from the new stock relief measures, which has boosted retentions by almost a half to £917,000, the dividend is being held at 13.1p gross, where the yield on the shares, which dropped 2p to 150p yesterday, is 8.7 per cent.

S and W Berisford expects tough year

Mr Ephraim Margulies, chairman of S and W Berisford told shareholders at the annual meeting that the board has now reviewed its trading results for the first four months of the current financial year, and the picture "is not one to inspire unmitigated pleasure". So far the secondary metals division has been the hardest hit.

A fall in output in much of the United Kingdom engineering sector has caused both a severe drop in the volume of available raw materials for processing, and a much lower demand for products, particularly secondary aluminium. But much remedial action is being taken, and all companies in the group are taking positive and effective steps to slim down overheads and raise operating efficiencies.

In conclusion Mr Margulies said that whilst he cannot pretend to be optimistic for the current year he is far from pessimistic.

FCI lends £10m to hotel group

Finance Corporation for Industry has made a £10m loan available to Commonwealth Holiday Inns of Canada. The loan is due for repayment between 2002-2003 and will initially carry a variable interest rate linked to Libor.

Commonwealth operates eight United Kingdom Holiday Inns in London and other provincial locations, under licence from Holiday Inns Inc. The finance has been obtained to support the current development programme.

The loan from FCI offers automatic conversion from a variable to a fixed interest rate at any time during the early years of the loan, in the event that long term fixed interest rates fall to a level selected by Commonwealth.

Marinex forms US subsidiary

Marinex Petroleum has formed an American subsidiary to look after its growing US oil and gas exploration interests. This marks a departure from the original intention to concentrate on exploration in Britain for which Marinex raised £8.6m in July 1980, at 160p a share. Yesterday the shares quoted under rule 163 closed unchanged on the day at 155p. Directors own 80 per cent of the equity.

Marinex is spending a total of US $2.5m (£1.14m) on a mixture of high and low risk joint ventures in Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas and Kansas; and $1.5m (£685,000) on Spanish offshore exploration. Mr Dan Williams, managing director of Marinex, remains optimistic about the company's prospects in Southern England. There is no likelihood of dividend payments for some time.

G. H. Scholes tumbles in first half

Profits of Manchester-based electrical engineering group George H. Scholes fell heavily in the half-year to Dec 31. Pretax profits slumped from £1.02m to £390,000 on sales down from £7.27m to £6.72m. Earnings per share, at 5p, are only a third of the previous half-year's 15.1p and the interim dividend is being cut from 8.57p to 5.17p gross.

The board explains that the recession, coming as the company was increasing expenditure on diversification and expansion, has hit profitability, as capital investment has not been recovered. But streamlining took place last autumn—with a 10 per cent cut in the labour force—and the company is now in a better position when more favourable conditions return.

R. Green Properties looks for upturn

With turnover down from £2.16m to £1.87m, pretax profits of R. Green Properties slipped from £742,000 to £508,000 in the six months to December 31, 1980.

However, the board expects a much improved second-half performance, leading to a "satisfactory" year's total, but which is unlikely to top the record figures for 1979-80.

The interim payment is unchanged at 1.0p gross a share.

Save & Prosper takes stake in Exco Securities

By Our Financial Staff

Save & Prosper, the unit trust group, is acquiring 11 per cent of Exco Securities (1979), the parent of City money brokers Astley & Pearce and Godsell.

The £2.9m worth of shares and convertible loan stock is coming from shareholdings of directors and staff, who will retain almost 65 per cent of the equity. The British & Commonwealth shipping group also controls 25.3 per cent, which it purchased three years ago from discount house Gerrard & National.

Mr John Gunn, Astley's managing director, expects the link-up with another financial services group to produce business opportunities including possible joint ventures along the lines of those operating with Guinness Mahon at present. Exco's pretax profits in 1980 were about double the year before at £5.75m.

Bank Base Rates

ABN Bank	14%
Barclays	14%
BCCI	14%
Consolidated Crdts	14%
C. Hoare & Co ..	*14%
Lloyds Bank	14%
Midland Bank	14%
Nat Westminster ..	14%
TSB	14%
Williams and Glyn's	14%

* 7 day deposit on sums of £10,000 and under 11½%, up to £50,000, 12%, over £50,000 12½%.

Business appointments

Sir Donald Barron to be Midland vice-chairman

Sir Donald Barron who has been a director of Midland Bank since 1972, has become vice-chairman of the bank. He will retire this month as chairman of Rowntree Mackintosh as previously announced.

Mr Charles Davidson has been made non-executive chairman of The Birmingham Mint from April, when the present chairman, Dr Basil Bard will be retiring from the board. Mr Davidson recently retired as commercial director of Lucas Industries and is also a non-executive director of Birmingham Post & Mail Holdings.

Mr David Peters is to join the main board of Fisons. Formerly of BOC, he will assume the responsibilities of Mr A. S. Woodhams, deputy chairman of Fisons and director in charge of group administration, who is retiring.

Mr Colin Bexon is now managing director of Management Selection. He was previously director and general manager. Mr Brian Woodrow has become managing director of MSL Advertising Services (ASL). Mr W. Elton Davies, previously executive chairman of ASL remains as non-executive chairman.

Mr Robert M. Keil has been elected a director of Dow Chemical.

Mr C. C. Parker and Mr G. A. Macmillan have been appointed directors of Barlow Rand.

Mr Bernard Lilley has become managing director of Carless Exploration.

Mr John F. Bishop has joined the board of Antony Gibbs, Sage.

Mr Chris Cottereell has been elected president of the Timber Trade Federation. He is a director of Machin & Kingsley and has served for the last two years as vice-president and is past chairman of the Pane Products Importers' Section. He was chairman of the Fibre Building Board Federation in 1973-75.

Mr Derrick Harrison has been made director of personnel management at the Central Electricity Generating Board. He is succeeded as industrial relations adviser to the Council by Mr Howard Sallis.

Mr Michael B. Cannan has become chief executive of the Electricity Supply Superannuation Schemes. He was previously deputy financial adviser to the Electricity Council.

Mr Norman Parker is now a director of P. C. Henderson Group and will become group chief executive in succession to Mr Bernard Henderson on April 1.

Mr G. A. Ashton has been made a non-executive director of Arthur Lee and Sons.

Mr Nigel H. McLean has become a director of Newman Industries.

Mr Michael A. C. Buckley has succeeded Mr Rodney D. Harnett as chairman and managing director of Benlox Holdings. Mr Harnett will continue as a non-executive director.

Mr Robert Woodford, group personnel director has joined the board of The Thomas Cook Group.

Mr P. W. Wilson is now a joint managing director of Altwood Statistics.

The Over-the-Counter Market

1980-81 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div (p)	Yld %	P/E
75	39	Airsprung Group	65	—	6.7	10.3	5.9
48	21	Armitage & Rhodes	48	+1	1.4	2.9	13.8
192	92½	Bardon Hill	190	—	9.7	5.1	7.1
98	88	Deborah Services	94	+1	5.5	5.9	4.7
126	88	Frank Horsell	106	—	6.4	6.0	3.3
110	40	Frederick Parker	40	—	1.7	4.3	17.4
110	74	George Blair	74	—	3.1	4.2	—
110	59	Jackson Group	107	—	6.9	6.4	4.1
124	103	James Burrough	119	—	7.9	6.6	9.8
334	244	Robert Jenkins	328	−2	31.3	9.5	—
55	50	Scruttons "A"	51	−1	5.3	10.4	3.7
224	215	Torday Limited	216	—	15.1	7.0	3.7
23	10	Twinlock Ord	11½	+½	—	—	—
90	69	Twinlock 15% ULS	72	—	15.0	20.8	—
56	35	Unilock Holdings	47	+1	3.0	6.4	7.2
103	81	Walter Alexander	101	−1	5.7	5.6	7.5
263	181	W. S. Yeates	251	+1	12.1	4.6	4.3

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Taking positions

Suggestions in the weekend press that the Budget may be rather tougher than expected helped gilts yesterday. "Longs" scoring gains of up to ¾ of a point. But trading was not heavy and few investors were willing to open new positions ahead of the Chancellor's speech.

The authorities must be hoping that the Chancellor will offer the market sufficient encouragement to clear the long "tap" on Wednesday, in which case we may expect two new stocks announced on Friday.

Meanwhile, the banks are required to restore their reserve asset ratios to at least 10 per cent today. Whether they are going to be required to hold them there for very much longer remains to be seen.

A near 17-point fall in the FT index since last Wednesday may reflect a straightforward technical reaction to an overbought position, not helped by a series of dividend cuts. But the market is clearly not prepared to hold out much hope of a clear lead being given to industry by the Chancellor and shares the gilt market's cynicism about whatever forecasts emerge today.

Just as clearly, however, equity specialists are not prepared to give up on the bull market just yet—however fragile that hope may be—led on by thoughts of a climb out of recession late this year or next.

Selective buying in the engineering sector has already indicated investors hopes of lower interest rates resulting in an end to destocking and liquidity pressures. Significantly, though, capital goods companies remain friendless and there are also fears that a classic bull trap may be emerging with a weak upturn bringing back the inflationary spiral and higher interest rates.

One or two sectors, however, still seem to be offering scope not least housebuilders, which can only benefit from some improvement in the competitive position of building societies as rates come down. Brewers even are discounting fairly swingeing increases today and could stage a strong advance based on last year's doughty profits performance in the face of adversity and dividend prospects. More controversially perhaps stores could emerge as attractive from an MLR cut reversing the high savings ratio. Even failing this prospect they are likely to attract support if only on the "least bad" equity argument. We shall see. . .

● *Cable & Wireless looks like being the next major asset sale by the Government with the disposal of just under half the shares pencilled in for the autumn.*

Like British Aerospace there are problems in valuing the company since there is no comparable group to set it up against. All the same the group sports a good profits record, in historic accounting terms at least although it is rather spottier on its own current cost accounting figures, and a handsome return on capital employed. It seems as though the Treasury is hoping to raise more than £100m as a result.

The prospectus will, however, need to convince investors that denationalization will not harm its trading prospects in the 30 or so countries overseas in which it operates. The Government has opened discussions with C & W's major overseas customers and is claiming to have had a positive response. But there is the residual danger that overseas governments, in lucrative markets like Hongkong or Bahrain, would nationalize C & W if private capital is allowed in which may complicate the eventual structure of the company that the merchant bankers finally decide upon.

Furniture

Parker Knoll in the recession

Fears that the recession would wreak havoc on the fortunes of furniture manufacturers were justified; the industry has seen more than 130 closures and 10,000 redundancies in the last year.

But Parker Knoll managed to inject some hope with interim results even if profits were down by an expected 42 per cent at £1.18m, for that contrasts with the experience of its neighbour and rival Gomme Holdings, the G-Plan group, which has already warned of a first half loss down from last year's £1.6m profit.

Parker Knoll has been forced to fight for gross margins in its furniture business and although no redundancies were declared, it worked a three day week for most of the six months. Thus while furniture profit was halved at £250,000, textiles, which now contribute about 60 per cent of profit, fell by a third to £500,000.

With the second half likely to benefit from a price increase and renewed Government contracts, which make up a fifth of group business, as well as an improved order book after the January sales, Parker Knoll's steady outlook is reflected by an unchanged share price. At 110p and assuming a maintained 10p gross dividend, the shares yield 9 per cent, slightly above average, while the balance sheet remains strong with £1.5m cash. One way, then, of staying in the sector, but without much prospect of excitement.

Finance houses

Different stories

Finance houses owned by clearing banks are notoriously difficult to assess. Much depends on the cost of funds they get from their parent banks and on the tax effective leasing business these banks may need.

It is perhaps not surprising, then, that Mercantile Credit, owned by Barclays, has reported record profits, while Forward Trust, Midlands subsidiary, which also reported yesterday ahead of the parent group's figures, has followed the general trend of finance houses and announced lower profits.

But Mercantile has also shown foresight and seems one of the few, if not the only one, among finance houses to have read interest rates correctly several months ago.

Forward Trust now an umbrella organization for Midland's factoring, hire purchase and leasing business. It has reported profits before tax of £25.6m for last year as against £31.2m in 1979. But on a fully comparable basis some £2m should be lopped off 1980 because of year end changes at Griffin Factor and Midland Montagu Leasing (UK).

It is the after tax profits, which include the real benefits of leasing, that matter for the Midland Group. These show profits up from £52m to £58m. At Forward Trust total assets have grown modestly from £1,300m to £1,500m and new business taken on went up only slightly from £870m to £900m. At the same time cost of money rose by 3 per cent. This low volume growth and high cost of money explains the figures.

At Mercantile, whose pre-tax profits are up from £36.9m to £38m are up to a new record, the situation has been vastly different. The balance sheet shows healthy volume growth with total assets up from £1,200m to £1,700m. Leasing business is up from £578m to over £1,000m, enough to explain some of the growth. But Mercantile also borrowed long when others, anticipating interest rate falls, went short and it has reaped the benefits of its pessimism.

Now that interest rates are falling Mercantile could lose some of its cost of funds advantage while groups such as Forward will gain on their fixed rate business which account for half of the loan portfolio. Even so, falling interest rates, continued growth of leasing and, possibly, more consumer confidence should benefit finance houses later this year.

● *Robertson Foods is pulling out all the stops to ward off the £19m share-exchange offer from Avana, forecasting profits of £2.4m before tax for the year to the end of March. But for the disruption caused by rationalizing the preserves business profits would have been £800,000 higher still.*

Compared with profits of £2.5m the year before and £2.7m two years earlier, this forecast is not exciting; nor is the promised rise in the dividend from 9.0 p to 9.1p gross. The arguments for staying with Robertson are that the problems in preserves have been overcome and that there is the possibility of a higher bid from someone else.

Robertson says with some justification, that Avana is taking advantage of the surge in its shares and the share price is now speculative. Takover speculation has certainly helped the rise in Avana shares.

Avana's offer, worth 163½p for each Robertson share, values Robertson on a full-taxed exit p/e ratio of about 16½ which looks fair.

But surprisingly Robertson has only been able to muster 29 per cent of the equity against the bid.

For those Robertson shareholders who want to play safe and perhaps risk losing an extra 10 per cent profit, there must be a good case for selling in the market.

Hugh Stephenson

If we had known then what we know now

On Budget morning it would not be helpful or kind to remind a Chancellor in search of a medium-term financial strategy of the old Irish joke which ends: "If that's where you're trying to get to, you shouldn't be starting from here." But a Chancellor's lot on such occasion would be a great deal happier if he knew even approximately from where he was starting.

The fact is that, even though we enjoy the services of what is probably the second best government statistical service in the world, at the moment when a Chancellor has to make the crucial Budget judgments he is as good as flying blind.

The fact that the margin of error and subsequent correction of key economic and financial statistics more than comprehends the range which triggers government policy was borne in on me in a very direct fashion. It was at one of those off-the-record briefings for journalists, organized by the legendary Miss Annabelle Lee, with the then President of the Board of Trade, Mr Anthony Crosland.

It was one of those briefings that were held on a "lobby basis" and which therefore never took place and which, I am sure are a thing of the past.

At first it was not clear why the President of the Board of Trade should take so much of his time out of one afternoon in order to fill in a group of trusties on the background to an article that had appeared in the September, 1969, issue of the *Board of Trade Journal*. The article had announced that it had been discovered that for years, because of the method of estimation, exports had been under-recorded at the rate of about 2 per cent.

The matter had come to light because of a dispute between the British Iron and Steel Federation and the Polish embassy in London. Each found that they were having an acrimonious dispute about the Anglo-Polish balance of trade on the basis of figures that in no way matched. It all seemed rather technical and quite good news, but somehow the President was uneasy and anxious.

Slowly it began to dawn why. His fear was that the newspapers the next morning might put 2 per cent and 2 per cent together and run headlines to the effect that the Labour Government had decided on the November, 1967, devaluation on the basis of a statistical error. And with hindsight it is near enough true.

If, as is now supposed to be the case, it had been known that the visible trade deficit for the first quarter of 1967 had been under £40m, as opposed to the announced over £105m (for the big figures were smaller in those distant and innocent days), it is highly questionable whether the pro-devaluation bandwaggon would have begun rolling in quite the same way.

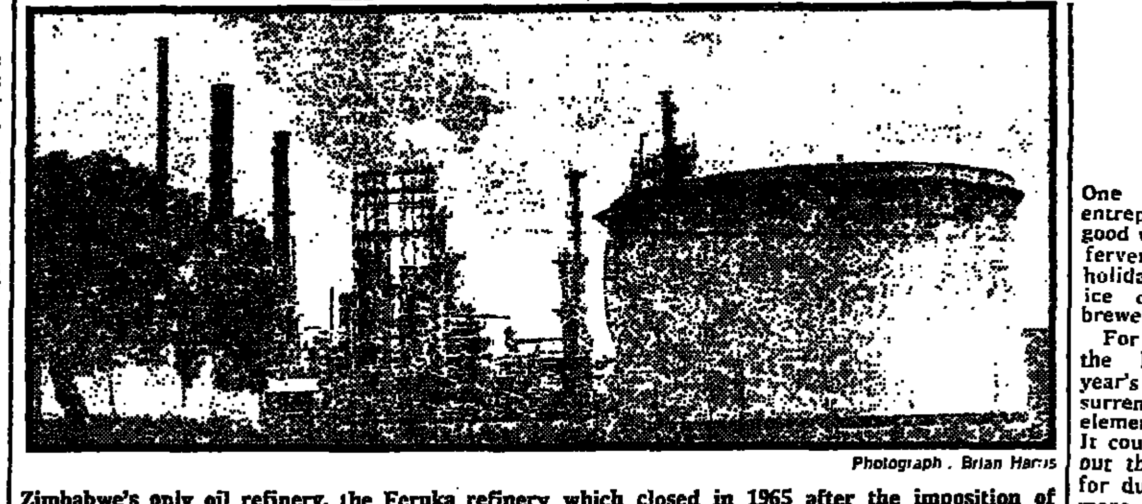
The statistical "What would have happened if we knew then what we know now?" game continues. Take two more recent episodes. The first was the Heath "dash for growth", which ended in inflationary disaster, and the second was the Labour Government's travails with the International Monetary Fund in 1976.

Everyone knew that the Heath Government was taking risks in trying to blast the economy out of low productivity. The conventional assumption was that the underlying growth capacity of the economy was about 3 per cent a year and that anything faster would generate inflation. The Government hoped that its prices and incomes policy could keep the lid on an expansion that was significantly faster.

Now in fact we know that between the first half of 1972 and the first half of 1973 real disposable income rose by something like 7 per cent. Little wonder the lid blew off.

And in 1976, when a Labour Government was hit by the fact that the balance of trade went on perversely deteriorating and was forced to go cap in hand to the IMF, the atmosphere and the analysis might well have been different if it had been known that the economy was quite conventionally overheating—with a rise in gross domestic product of nearly 4½ per cent in the second half of the year (at an annual rate) as usual sucking in imports.

Perhaps Sir Geoffrey Howe will be asking whether he would have done something different in 1980, if he had known that the public sector borrowing requirement would have been £13,500m this year instead of the forecast £8,500m. But we shall hear more later today.



Photograph: Brian Harris

Zimbabwe's only oil refinery, the Feruka refinery which closed in 1965 after the imposition of sanctions and an oil embargo as a result of UDI.

Why Mr Mugabe is losing patience over oil

Stephen Taylor

Salisbury

An angry outburst by Mr Robert Mugabe, Zimbabwe's prime minister, has thrown into sharp outline the conflict between the new nation's aspirations and the reality of its dependence on the supply of oil from South Africa.

Mr Mugabe had just completed a tour of Feruka, Zimbabwe's only oil refinery, which has been closed since the introduction of economic sanctions and the oil embargo on Rhodesia at the end of 1965.

The refinery, at Umtali on the country's eastern border, was designed in 1962 along with the pipeline that runs to it from the Mozambican port of Beira. It was meant to provide for the oil needs of Rhodesia and Zambia but operated for only 10 months.

The Government believes that not enough has been done since sanctions were lifted to bring Feruka into operation again. Mr Mugabe told a political rally 10 days ago that if the consortium, which owns Feruka, did not take immediate measures to "resurrect" its function the Government would take action.

He did not elaborate, but the desire for independence and for relief from the huge cost of importing refined oil products from South Africa is given impetus by the assurance received by the Government that the pipeline, which was also closed in 1966, will be in operation again by October.

The shareholders in the consortium, Central African Petroleum Refineries (Capref), are Shell and BP (20.75 per cent each), Mobil (17.75), Caltex (15.75), American Independent (15) and Total Zimbabwe and Kuwait National (5 per cent each).

A study by the American firm, Fluor, commissioned by the consortium to discover how 15 years of disuse have affected Feruka, was completed in December. Although it has not been made public, it is known that dampness in asbestos fibre insulation has caused exhaust chimneys to rust, necessitating the stripping and replacement of the insulation and treatment of the metal.

It is likely that reconditioning work will exceed the original building cost of about £10m.

A spokesman for Capref denied in London that the consortium was dragging its heels: $2m (about £900,000) had been spent on the study and the outcome had been discussed with the government. Further talks would be held later this month, the spokesman said after Mr Mugabe's statement.

The main consideration affecting Feruka's future operation concerns the difference between the functions it was designed for and the present needs of Zimbabwe. The refinery was built to process 907,000 tonnes of light Iranian crude a year and produce premium and regular petrol, diesel and air turbine fuel, paraffin, liquid petroleum gas, solvent and bitumen.

The country now needs more diesel than petrol, and in any case, no longer requires premium petrol, because cars are being run on a blend of 85 per cent regular petrol and 15 per cent locally produced ethanol. Demand for aviation fuel and liquid petroleum gas has increased sharply.

Mr Ian Yeoman, the general manager of Capref, has said that the refinery could be open by June, 1982. The import of refined products from South Africa cost about £102m in 1979 and that delay would mean a nearly intolerable burden for Zimbabwe, were it not for another consideration. This is *the Lonrho-owned pipeline from* Beira to the refinery—a factor which no doubt weighed heavily with Mr Mugabe in his criticism of the oil companies.

While the pipeline, too, has been out of operation since 1965 and a lot of work has to be done, before it can be reopened, the government has been told that this can be completed by October. Provided that the facilities at Beira are adequate, the pipeline could supply almost all Zimbabwe's requirements at much less cost than the rail and road networks from South Africa.

Even before the refinery comes back on stream the pipeline could carry refined products, with the crude following later.

The pipeline was designed to carry up to one million tons a year of crude and refined oil and as the country's needs this year are likely to amount to some 700,000 tons, mainly of petrol and diesel fuel, it could meet that fairly comfortably. But there is uncertainty about whether modern aviation fuel can pass through the pipe without being contaminated.

Studies of the line by a London company, Pipeline Technologists, have revealed that a 40-kilometre stretch passing through the Pungwe marshes near Beira are corroded and will have to be replaced. Piping has been ordered from Japan and the first shipment is due to arrive in Beira in June. It must be laid quickly because the area is submerged during the rainy season. The rains will end this month, to be followed by about seven dry months.

It is proposed to strip about 80 kilometres of the pipeline of its protective coating and treat it with an anti-corrosive while the new pipe is laid. Work is also being carried out on the two pumping stations, one at Beira and the other about 150 kilometres along the 288 kilometre-long line.

The future of the pipeline is under consideration, because an expanding nation is likely to demand more fuel by the middle of the decade (if not earlier) than it can carry.

The introduction of two more pumping stations would boost the flow to about 1.25 million tons a year, but there could soon come a time when, as Lonrho says, "We may have to consider building a second pipeline."

Withering on the vine...

One small group of British entrepreneurs is praying for good weather in 1981 even more fervently than the country's holidaymakers, tour operators, ice cream manufacturers or brewers.

For many of those rarities, the English *vignerons*, this year's weather could mean final surrender in the face of the elements and economic verities. It could lead to their grubbing out their vines to make room for duller crops, like potatoes, more stoically suited to the English climate.

Almost incredibly, grapes for wine making were grown continuously in England from the times of the Romans until the First World War. The unequal struggle recommenced after the Second World War and the English Vineyards Association now regards 236 vineyards as on a scale that it considers "commercial".

This means that they cover more than half an acre each—not a lot when one considers the hundreds of thousands of acres under vines in countries such as France, Spain, Italy and even Russia. How "commercial" the English vineyards really are is often a secret kept between the owners, their accountants and the Inland Revenue.

The owners vary from enthusiasts with private means or, as some would say, more money than sense to hard-headed business interests such as the large German wine house of Pieroth, which recently hedged its bets to the extent of investing in a vineyard in Sussex. Very few have the resources of Mr Kenneth Mc-Alpine, scion of the civil engineers and owner of Lamberhurst Priory, set up with processing and bottling equipment costing more than £300,000.

For most of those engaged in it wine making is essentially a secondary business, run in conjunction perhaps with a restaurant (as with Mr Kenneth Bell at Thornbury Castle, in Avon) or, more commonly, fruit farms. A mere handful of English growers depend entirely upon their vines for their livelihood —among them Mr Ken Barlow, at Adgestone on the Isle of Wight, the Barretts, at Felsted in Essex (though they also deal in vineyard machinery) and the Paget brothers, at Chilsdown in Sussex.

Mr Ian Paget edits the vineyard association's newsletter, *The Grape Press*, and has the rather morbid job of collecting growers' reports from around the country. Glumly he divides the items in his latest issue into "bad news" and "other news" and he makes no secret of his own financial embarrassment.

"In 1976", he says, "we had a bumper crop. It was that crop which headed us for Queer Street. We had the equivalent of 80,000 bottles in the fields, cropping at 11 tonnes, or 11,000 bottles to the acre.

"We had so many grapes and so few fermentation tanks that even after rushing out to buy three huge Italian tanks we could make only 62,000 bottles.

"I sold the Italian tanks and spent £20,000 buying an extra 20,000 litres capacity in German tanks. They have never been used since and, because the Deutschemark was high when I bought them, they would cost little more now if I bought them now."

The Pagets rent a 13-acre vineyard and, since they plant closer than most English growers, have some 20,000 vines, making them potentially perhaps the fifth largest producers in Britain. In 1977 they made only 19,000 bottles, in 1978 a mere 4,000 and in 1979 about 9,000. There was no wine at all in 1980, and, because each year's weather influences the next year's set of flowers, Mr Paget dare not hope for more than half a crop this year even if things go ideally from now on.

"There cannot be many occupations where one can work for a whole year and see no result", Mr Paget says. "You have to go on spraying, weeding and pruning, putting in more and more money and labour, just to keep nature at bay. But you cannot just walk away from 20,000 vines that you have planted, tended and cherished."

On top of these troubles Mr Paget has seen rabbits and moles kill more than a thousand of his young Seyval vines. Filling in the gaps with younger replacements will make the vineyard much more difficult to work. Adding insult to injury, the Inland Revenue has decided that his winery and bottling plant are not agricultural, but should pay industrial rates, which would mean about another £300 a year. The National Farmers' Union is supporting Mr Paget before the Lands Tribunal

In 1981 Mr Paget says, "we develop tourism or go to the wall". Chilsdown is opposite the Wealden Downland Open Air Museum and attracted 5,000 visitors last year at about 50p a head.

If the British know little about wine-making, Mr Paget says, it must be because they so seldom pass the first hurdle of getting a crop of grapes. His experience is not untypical. There are growers who have not had a decent crop in eight or nine years of effort. One Sussex winegrower is on the point of taking out his vines to try open-air opera instead.

At Adgestone last year, Mr Ken Barlow's Seyval shed almost all its flowers, cutting the crop to 8,000 bottles. At Biddenden, rain in June and July cut the crop to one fifth of its original potential

Mr Kit Morris and Mr Tom Day at Fairfields had "the lowest yields we have yet obtained". Even in Jersey Mr Bob Blayney of La Mere Vineyard reported "our worst year ever".

In Wiltshire Dr Gordon Caldow, who produces one of the country's two commercial red wines, sold all his 1979 crop (10 cases) to one London wine agent. There was even less difficulty disposing of the 1980 one: there was no wine.

Yet the growers all hope for a better 1981. "It would be nice to see the results of a decent growing season", Dr Caldow says. "Somehow we must sail this aircraft carrier nearer the sun," says Mr Bob Blayney.

Not only wine lovers, but all who admire determination and dogged persistence, must hope it keeps fine for them.

Robin Young

Business Diary: Bad dogs and Englishmen • Pay as you err

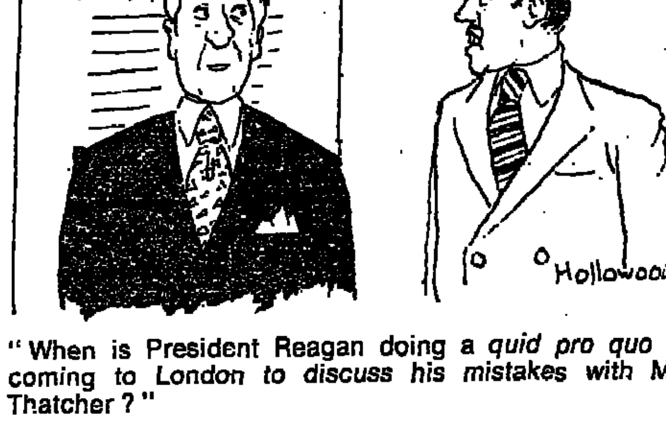
With the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Sir Geoffrey Howe, by all accounts needing to raise more than £3,000m in extra taxes next year, now is not the time to overlook potential sources of government revenue, however small.

The pleasures of alcohol, tobacco and motoring have monopolized the taxman's interest for too long, while another rapidly growing, but equally anti-social, pastime has escaped the attention of successive Chancellors

The cost of a dog licence, at 37½p, has remained unchanged since it was raised to 7s 6d from 5s in 1878. What is more, fewer than half the 5½ million dogs in the country are licensed in the first place, making the dog licence as voluntary a tax as the notorious estate duty used to be.

The cost of the bureaucracy to administer the licence now runs to £1.8m a year, according to the Department of the Environment—nearly twice the paltry £1m the Government gets back in revenue.

The very least the Chancellor should do is to increase the cost of the licence in line with the rise in the cost of living since it was last uprated, in accordance with the widely accepted indexation principle. The equivalent of 7s. 6d. in 1878 is about £10 today. If all dogs were licenced this could bring in £55m a year—as much as 5p on a bottle of wine and 30p on a bottle of scotch.



"When is President Reagan doing a *quid pro quo* by coming to London to discuss his mistakes with Mrs Thatcher?"

●Who is the richest man in Italy? He is a certain Valerio Alpi, owner of a firm with 850 workers *making wooden fixtures* at Forli in the Communist-ruled region of Emilia-Romagna, if the latest figures issued by the finance ministry are anything to go by.

Admittedly, the figures are *for the year 1977*, and many things have changed in the meantime, but then he submitted a tax return showing an income of 863m lire (then about £550,000).

Industrialists are well down the list. Leopoldo Pirelli comes 67th with 339m lire (then £220,000). Umberto Agnelli 108th with 297m lire (£190,000) and his elder brother, the Fiat chairman, Giovanni Agneilli, 157th with 258m lire (£165,000).

Cheating the Revenue has always been an Italian pastime, and perhaps Alpi should qualify rather for the title of the most honest rather than richest man in the country. After all, only 105 people admitted to a gross income of over 300m lire (£193,000).

The gangs engaged on the highly profitable industry of kidnappings have undoubtedly a better idea than the finance ministry of the real wealth accumulated by the upper crust.

Meanwhile, Spain's upper-bracket taxpayers are getting a break at last. From now on they will not pay any less, but they will be less dangerously exposed.

After the kidnapping last January of the man who paid the highest personal income tax last year, Señor Luis Suñer, the Madrid government is at last to listen to the wealthy. It will give up the practice of publishing the complete list of income tax payers every year.

Not all of the list has been suppressed, however. The taxes on earnings of public office holders will still be put on public display at the finance ministry

The Greek instinct for business is demonstrated amply during the earth tremors which occasionally dislocate the economy of Athens.

While some shop-keepers will promptly pull down their shutters and flee at the slightest geological convulsion, pedlars show their sense of occasion by producing push-carts piled high with the electric torches and batteries, whistles and vacuum flasks that seismologists urge people to keep handy in case a strong shock brings their homes tumbling down.

Most ingenious of all are the drivers of modern tourist coaches, otherwise idle because of the winter season. Fleeing Athenians are offered a night's accommodation in airline-seat comfort, complete with heating and television, by the seaside and far from dangerous buildings for about a pound a head.

● Brian Hill, managing director of builders Higgs and Hill, the construction company, notched up a unique hat-trick yesterday when he was installed as president of the London region of the National Federation of Building Trades Employers.

Hill became the third member of his family to occupy the post. His grandfather Edmund was president in 1916 and his father Gerald held the post in 1953. Brian Hill is also the first chartered surveyor to preside over the builders.

Hill is 48 and is the seventh generation of a family of builders which started business in the south of England in the early eighteen hundreds. The company merged with the Higgs family business in 1874, although Higgs participation petered out half a century ago.

The company remains distinctly Hill country. Brian's brother Anthony looks after its overseas interests, while cousin David is another main board director.

Will the family link continue? Brian cannot say for sure, but he has a son at Reading University studying to be a chartered surveyor.

The construction industry is in the doldrums just now, although Higgs and Hill had an exciting time of it last year, fighting off a takeover attempt by BICC. "The industry still has an exciting future for people prepared to work hard and use their initiative"

● The ripples are still fanning out from last week's tailpiece about the mayor in the North-west who, on being told that a gondola would improve the municipal lake, replied: "We could get two and breed them in Pets Corner."

A. Non, of the National Coal Board in Scotland, (A. McNon?) says that the anecdote was first told of Glasgow in 1901. J. S. Jewitt, of Darlington, says that it was told of his own town "over 50 years ago", and Mrs B. B. Hopkinson, of Nottingham, says that it was Rotherham "40 years ago".

The delightfully-named Rev Ilex Pullenayegum writes from his Reigate vicarage to say that the tale "was current in Sri Lanka in the thirties during a similar debate in the hill country".

He asks, as well he might: "Coincidence or common source?"

Book-burning is back in style, not in Berlin but here. Bookseller Richard Booth of Hay on Wye is offering 100 tons of books for sale to wood-stove owners who can take them away for reading or for burning. Booth, who has 1.5 million secondhand books on 11 miles of shelves, says that it no longer pays him to send surplus books for pulping because the recession has put paid to that market.

Ross Davies

Stock Exchange Prices

Equities marked lower

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, March 2 Dealings End, March 13. § Contango Day, March 16. Settlement Day, March 23

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

BRITISH FUNDS

SHORTS

1980 81 High	Low	Stock		Price	Ch'ge	Int. only Yield	Gross Red Yield
96	91	Exch	1981	98		8.339	12.347
99	91	Exch	1981	99		9.596	12.108
96	89	Exch	3% 1981	96	..	3.117	11.852
100	93	Exch	12¾% 1981	100	..	12.710	12.213
97	88	Treas	1980-82	97	..	8.763	12.298
95	81	Treas	3% 1982	94		3.166	8.981
102	90	Treas	14% 1982	102		13.726	11.848
95	85	Treas	1982	95		8.667	12.321
96	85	Exch	1982	95		9.706	12.686
94	84	Exch	1983	94		9.278	12.313
89	79	Exch	3% 1983	89		3.372	9.293
99	88	Treas	12% 1983	98		12.144	12.687
97	84	Treas	1983	93		9.913	12.623
102	94	Exch	13½% 1983	101		13.326	12.890
93	84	Exch	10% 1983	93		10.717	12.945
87	76	Fund	1982-84	87	..	6.320	10.919
97	86	Exch	11% 1984	96		11.717	12.920
104	94	Exch	14% 1984	102½		13.659	13.009
80½	66	Exch	3% 1984	80	..	3.732	10.191
98	88	Treas	12% 1984	97		12.292	12.837
108	97	Treas	15% 1985	106		14.069	12.902
75	65	Treas	3% 1985	74	..	4.008	10.565

MEDIUMS

COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN

LOCAL AUTHORITIES

DOLLAR STOCKS

BANKS AND DISCOUNTS

BREWERIES AND DISTILLERIES

COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL

A—B

C—E

F—H

I—L

M—N

O—S

T—Z

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

INSURANCE

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

SHIPPING

MINES

OIL

PROPERTY

RUBBER

TEA

MISCELLANEOUS

RECENT ISSUES

RIGHTS ISSUES

MARKET REPORTS

Commodities

COPPER bars were steadier at yesterday's close: cathodes steady, but quiet.—Afternoon.—Cash wire bars, £802.50-3.50 a metric ton: three months, £825-25.50. Sales, 3,100. Cash cathodes, £800-1.00; three months, £813-13.50. Sales, 225 tons. Morning.—Cash wire bars, £802-2.50; three months, £824-24.50. Settlement, £802.50. Sales, 10,800 tons. Cash cathodes, £798-800.00: three months, £811-812.00. Settlements, £800.00. Sales, 750 tons.

TIN.—Standard tin closed very steady: high-grade was idle.—Afternoon.—Standard cash, £6,045-50 a tonne; three months, £6,165-70. Sales, 445 tonnes. High grade, cash £6,045-50; three months £6,165-70. Sales, nil tonnes. Morning.—Standard, cash, £6,055-60; three months, £6,160-65. Settlement, £6,060. Sales, 910 tonnes. High grade, cash £6,055-60; three months, £6,160-65. Settlement, £6,060. Sales, nil tonnes. Singapore tin ex-works fell by 10 cents yesterday to 30.05 ringgit per kilo.

LEAD was steady.—Afternoon.—Cash, £335-36.00 per tonne; three months, £342.50-43.00. Sales, 3,450 tonnes. Morning.—Cash, £334-34.50; three months, £341-41.50. Settlement £334.50. Sales, 4,125 tonnes.

ZINC closed steadier.—Afternoon.—Cash £338-38.50 per tonne: three months, £348.50-49.00. Sales, 2,000 tonnes. Morning.—Cash, £336-37.00; three months, £347-47.50. Settlement, £337.00. Sales, 2,450 tonnes.

PLATINUM was at £205.15 ($435.50) a troy ounce.

SILVER was steady.—Bullion market (fixing levels).—Spot, 539.05p per troy ounce (United States cents equivalent, 1,180.30); three months, 556.55p (1,227.30c); six months, 573.25p (1,278.90c); one year, 601.00p (1,359.90c). London Metal Exchange.—Afternoon.—Cash, 542-43.0p; three months, 558-59.0p. Sales, 28 lots of 10,000 troy ounces each. Morning.—Cash, 540-41.0p; three months, 556.5-57.0p. Settlement, 541.0p. Sales, 161 lots.

[illegible]

Discount market

Tight and rather nervous conditions prevailed in the discount market yesterday in view of the heavy loan repayments to be made and the likely disruptive effects of the Civil Servants' strike. With interbank rates somewhere between 15 and 20 per cent virtually all day, houses were again on the sidelines with bids that stayed at 14 per cent throughout.

Foreign exchange report

After trading in a narrowly easier range early on the pound encountered a bout of buying yesterday afternoon including some New York covering of short positions ahead of today's United Kingdom Budget. It closed 200 points up at $2.2140 against the dollar after extremes of $2.2150 and $2.1855, while sterling's trade-weighted level rebounded from an opening 98.1 to end at 99.1, a net gain of 0.4.

The market remained nervous and dealers reported that there was still a good deal of speculation over the extent of today's expected MLR cut. If it is confined to two points, then the currency could stage a brisk rally, they added, as such a reduction had been well discounted.

Lower Euro-Dollar rates behind Friday's encouraging United States Wholesale Price Index and lower money supply figures, clipped the dollar at the outset and after a brief mid-session rally, the currency fell away to close near the bottom of the day.

Sterling: Spot and Forward

[illegible]

Other Markets

[illegible]

Indices

[illegible]

Dollar Spot Rates

[illegible]

Money Market Rates

[illegible]

EMS Currency Rates

[illegible]

Euro-$ Deposits

[illegible]

Gold

[illegible]

Pechiney Ugine cuts cobalt price

Further signs of weakness in the cobalt market came yesterday when the French company, Pechiney Ugine Kuhlmann, cut its price from Francs 255.26 to F218.6 a kilo. The reduction is retrospective to March 1.

The cut came a day after Gecamines, the Zaire state metals company, said that it is to store more cobalt in Shaba, the southern province of Zaire in which most cobalt and copper mines are situated.

LME metal stocks

Stocks in London Metal Exchange official warehouses at the end of last week (all in tonnes except silver, which is in troy ounces): Copper fell 700 to 118,600; Tin rose 120 to 6,630; Lead fell 1,000 to 60,675; Zinc rose 500 to 92,325; Aluminium fell 875 to 46,050; Nickel rose 90 to 4,158; Silver fell 430,000 to 24.17m.

Wall Street

New York, March 9.—Stocks on the New York Stock Exchange closed higher in moderate trading as the NYSE Index rose 0.63 to 73.09 and the average price per share 29 cents.

The Dow Jones industrial average climbed 11.80 to 976.42 and advances led declines 948 to 618 as turnover quickened to 46,180,000 shares from 43,940,000 Friday.

Volume leader Sears climbed [illegible] to 17[illegible], K Mart [illegible] to 18[illegible], J. C. Penney [illegible] to 27[illegible], Tandy 3[illegible] to 51[illegible], and Allied Stores [illegible] to 23[illegible]. Retailers benefit from falling interest rates which reduce their inventory costs.

Active Du Pont climbed 1[illegible] to 50 and New England Nuclear 1[illegible] to 62[illegible]. Nuclear holders approved a takeover by Du Pont. The takeover is expected soon after April 8.

Other chemicals were also strong. Union Carbide added 1[illegible] to 58[illegible]. Dow Chemical [illegible] to 36[illegible]. American Cyanamid [illegible] to 30[illegible] and W. R. Grace one to 50[illegible].

Active General Motors gained [illegible] to 52[illegible] and Ford Motor 1[illegible] to 22[illegible]. Chrysler slipped [illegible] to 5[illegible]. It lost $140m in January but said it still expects a second quarter profit.

Other glamour and blue chip issues gained. Exxon added [illegible] to 69[illegible], General Electric 2[illegible] to 67[illegible], Westinghouse one to 29[illegible], Eastman Kodak 1[illegible] to 80, active Polaroid 1[illegible] to 27[illegible], Proctor and Gamble 1[illegible] to 71[illegible], McDonald's 1[illegible] to 58[illegible], International Paper [illegible] to 47[illegible] and Minnesota Mining 1[illegible] to 60[illegible].

US commodities

GOLD prices gained $7.50 to $473-$474 an ounce. CHICAGO IMM.—June $554.50; Sept. $574.50; March $612.00; June $630.80; July $625.50 nominal. NY COMEX. March $471.90; April $474.00-$475.50; May $480.30; June $485.00-$486.00; Aug. $497.20; Oct. $508.80; Dec. $520.50; Feb. $532.50; April $544.20; June $556.20; Aug. $568.40; Oct. $580.60; Dec. $593.40.

SILVER futures, after rising 25 cents on oddlot buying, retreated to about steady levels. Spot March settled 8.7 cents up at $11.825 an ounce, having posted an early high $12.05. March 1182.50c; April 1194.00c; May 1207.00-1210.00c; July 1242.00c; Sept. 1271.00c; Dec. 1318.00c; Jan. 1333.50c; March 1365.00c; May 1396.50c; July 1428.00c; Sept. 1459.50c; Dec. 1506.60c.

COPPER futures ended quietly lower. Contracts settled at or near day's lows with prices off 0.10 to 0.25 cent. May stood at 81.55 cents, down 0.15 cent. March, 79.60c; April, 80.35c; May, 81.50-81.65c; July 83.70-84.00c; Sept. 86.40-86.50c; Dec. 89.40-89.65c; Jan. 90.40c; March, 92.50c; May, 94.35c; July, 96.20c; Sept. 98.85c; Dec. 100.65c; Jan. 101.55c.

SUGAR futures closed limit down 0.50-cent for the third session in a row on scattered speculative liquidation, including new short selling. Nearby May settled 0.49-cent lower at 21.85 cents, after failing to attract follow through buying at the psychologically important 22.00 cents.

COTTON futures were: March, 88.10 bid-88.50c asked; May, 89.00-89.05c; July, 88.71-88.80c; Oct. 85.30-85.50c; Dec. 82.30-82.35c; May, 83.00 bid-83.50c asked; July, 83.00c.

COCOA futures ended a thinly traded session with gains of $1 to $5. May contract settled at $1,972, up $5. March, $1,940-1,920; May, $1,985-1,962; July, $2,035-2,014; Sept. $2,085-2,062; Dec. $2,143-2,125; March, $2,200-2,200.

[illegible]

Canadian Prices

[illegible]

Authorized Units, Insurance & Offshore Funds

[illegible]

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Friday, 13 March, 11 a.m.
SILVER AND PLATE
Illustrated Catalogue 75p by post

Monday, 16 March, 11 a.m.
FURNITURE, CARPETS AND OBJECTS

Monday, 16 March, 1.30 p.m.
MODERN BRITISH PICTURES, DRAWINGS AND SCULPTURE including items from the studio of Sir David Murray, R.A.
Illustrated Catalogue £2.00 by post

Tuesday, 17 March, 11 a.m.
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Tuesday, 17 March, 2 p.m.
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Thursday 19th March at 10.30 am and 2 pm
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(continued on page 26)

Law Report March 9 1981

Privy Council

Higher interest outside 'further advance' in deed of guarantee

Burnes v Trade Credits Ltd

Before Lord Diplock, Lord Simon of Glaisdale, Lord Edmund-Davies, Lord Keith of Kinkel and Lord Scarman

[Judgment delivered March 4]

In a deed of guarantee of a debt the phrases "further advance" and "other indulgence or consideration" did not cover an increase in the rate of interest from 9 to 16 per cent, coupled with an extension of time for repayment of the principal agreed subsequently between debtor and creditor, so as to render the guarantor liable for the increased interest when the debtor defaulted.

The Judicial Committee of the Privy Council allowed an appeal by Mrs Pauline Burnes, the guarantor, from a decision of the New South Wales Court of Appeal allowing an appeal by Trade Credits Ltd, the plaintiff, against the dismissal by Judge Geoffrey-Smith in the Sydney District Court of the plaintiff's action against the guarantor on her guarantee of a debt incurred by Civic Private Hotel Pty Ltd.

Mr Paul Flannery, QC, and Mr Colin O'Connor (both of the New South Wales Bar) for the guarantor; Mr Richard Southwell, QC, and Mr Peter Moss (of the New South Wales Bar) for the plaintiff.

LORD KEITH said that in 1973 on a sale of land to Civic Private Hotel Pty Ltd the vendor agreed that $100,000 of the purchase price should remain outstanding. That debt was secured by a mortgage with interest at 9 per cent. The principal was to be paid on October 12, 1975. At the time of the sale a guarantor executed a deed of guarantee of the debt. The guarantee provided that unless the guarantor gave notice that she would not guarantee any further advance "any further advance or advances" made by the lender to the borrower were to be included in the guarantee. It also provided that the guarantor's consent was not necessary for any granting by the lender to the borrower of time or "any other indulgence or consideration".

On October 18, 1973, the vendor assigned the mortgage to the plaintiff. On November 25, 1975, the hotel company and the plaintiff without the guarantor's consent entered into a memorandum of variation of the mortgage which provided that the rate of interest payable on the principal sum should be increased to 16 per cent as from October 12, 1975, and the term of the mortgage extended to October 12, 1976. On March 25, 1976, the vendor assigned the benefit of the guarantee to the plaintiff.

The hotel company defaulted on the payment of interest on the mortgage as varied, and the plaintiff started proceedings in the District Court claiming outstanding unpaid interest. Judgment was given for the guarantor. On the plaintiff's appeal, the Court of Appeal reversed that decision, holding that the phrase "further advance" used in the guarantee covered the variation of the mortgage.

Their Lordships were of the view that the Court of Appeal had erred. While the meaning of "advance" might be shaded somewhat by its context, it normally meant the furnishing of money for some specified purpose. The furnishing did not necessarily need to be by way of loan, although that was clearly what had been contemplated in the instant case. When the guarantee referred to "further advance" it was referring to the furnishing of an additional principal sum. It would be true to say that where the term for repayment of an original principal sum had been extended the sum remained advanced for a further term, but it would be a distortion of language to describe that as a further advance.

It was also clear from the express provisions of the guarantee that the interest rate was to be 9 per cent however long the principal sum remained outstanding. There was no indication of an intention that the guarantor should be liable for any increase in the rate of interest which might subsequently be agreed between lender and borrower.

The plaintiff's subsidiary argument was that the variation was binding on the guarantor because it was covered by the provision that no notice was necessary of the grant of "any other indulgence or consideration". Had the agreement for an extension of time stood alone it might have been authorized by those words. But the superadded agreement for an increased interest rate went beyond anything contemplated by them.

In some circumstances the granting of an indulgence to a debtor might prejudice the rights of a guarantor vis-à-vis the debtor, and if such a provision were not included the guarantor might be released from liability. The provision was intended to safeguard the debtor from that eventuality and did not enable the debtor and creditor by agreement between themselves to saddle the guarantor with an added liability.

The appeal should be allowed.

Solicitors: Ingledew, Brown, Bennison & Garratt; Clifford-Turner.

Court of Appeal

'No interest' rule upheld

Burrows v Burrows

Before Lord Justice Ormrod, Lord Justice Eveleigh and Lord Justice Watkins.

[Judgments delivered March 5]

It is for Parliament to change the law if it, in its wisdom, thought that interest should be payable on a county court judgment debt.

The Court of Appeal dismissed an appeal by a wife from the refusal of Judge Perks, at Croydon County Court, to order interest on £10,500 awarded as a lump sum to the wife on June 6, 1980. The husband had been granted six weeks in which to make payment, but had not paid it until November 11, 1980.

Mr Ian Partridge for the wife; Mr Graham Clark for the husband.

LORD JUSTICE ORMROD said that the court had been invited to hold that the decision in *R v County Court Judge of Essex and Clarke* ((1887) 18 QBD 704) was decided per incuriam and not binding on the court. That decision had decided that interest was not payable on a county court judgment debt.

Mr Partridge had made a bold submission, and it would require an equivalent degree of courage for the court to overrule a very strong Court of Appeal consisting of Lord Esher, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Fry and Lord Justice Lopes. Lord Esher's decision had followed *Berkeley v Elderkin* ((1853) 1 E & B 805).

Before the Judgments Act, 1838, interest was not recoverable at common law on judgments. Section 17 of the Act had provided that every judgment debt should carry interest of £4 per centum per annum from the time of entering judgment until it was satisfied and "such interest may be levied under a writ of execution". Mr Partridge drew attention to the use of the word "may". But the county courts did not exist in 1838. They were created by statute in 1846, and throughout all the subsequent county court legislation no provision had been made to enable interest to be charged on a county court judgment debt. The county court had a code of its own for the enforcement of judgments.

The decision of 1887 had been unchallenged for nearly a century. Even the House of Lords might find it impossible to overrule it. However, it would be open to the judge in the divorce county court on granting a lump sum order to state in the order that if the sum was not paid within a certain time then interest could be charged.

Lord Justice Eveleigh delivered a concurring judgment, and Lord Justice Watkins agreed.

Solicitors: Dollman & Pritchard; W. G. R. Saunders & Son.

Chancery Division

At the drop of a hat

Creed (Inspector of Taxes) v H. & M. Levinson Ltd.

Before Mr Justice Slade

[Judgment delivered March 6]

The £22,500 paid by Marks and Spencer Ltd to a small hat manufacturing company to compensate them for "loss of opportunity to seek new and alternative markets for their products" was not made under an agreement affecting the whole structure of the company's "profit-making apparatus" and accordingly was a revenue receipt liable to corporation tax.

His Lordship allowed an appeal by the Crown from a decision of the general commissioners for St Pancras who had allowed an appeal by the company, H. & M. Levinson Ltd, against an estimated assessment to corporation tax for their accounting period ended August, 1969, on the ground that payment was a capital receipt outside the scope of corporation tax.

Mr Robert Carnwath for the Crown. The company did not appear and was not represented.

MR JUSTICE SLADE said that the company manufactured hats and supplied Marks and Spencer with a substantial part of their production. In 1961 Marks and Spencer decided to stop selling hats and offered assistance to them in changing to new forms of production in the light clothing field. The company accepted, purchased new machinery and engaged specialist staff. From 1961 to 1963 a significant part of their production was involved with clothing although they continued to make some hats for other customers. However in May, 1965, the company issued a writ against Marks and Spencer alleging breach of the agreement in that they had failed to provide sufficient light clothing work to utilize fully their new machines and staff. They claimed damages for the "loss of their share of other millinery markets due to the 1961 agreement". The action was stayed by order in 1961 when Marks and Spencer paid the company £22,500 for "loss of goodwill".

The company was assessed to corporation tax on the basis that that payment was a trading receipt. They appealed on the grounds that it was not liable to tax either because it was made voluntarily or because it was of a capital nature.

It appeared that the mention of "loss of goodwill" in the order referred to the loss to the company of their opportunity to seek new and alternative markets for their hat production. The company's accounts showed that since 1954 Marks and Spencer had taken proportions of their hat production ranging from 47.4 per cent to 90.5 per cent, showing that they had never depended entirely on Marks and Spencer for their profits.

Was the payment made in respect of loss of goodwill and of a capital nature? In *John Mills Productions Ltd v Mathias* ((1967) 44 TC 441) a company was formed to exploit an actor's services. The company contracted to render the exclusive film services of the actor to R. Ltd for seven years. After some three years the contract was terminated in consideration of £50,000 being paid by R. Ltd to the company. The company was subsequently wound up. Mr Justice Ungoed-Thomas, rejecting the company's case that the £50,000 was a capital and not a revenue receipt, stated that the vital test was whether the agreement by virtue of which the payment was received "related to the whole structure of the appellants' profit-making apparatus".

Did the agreement by virtue of which Marks and Spencer paid the £22,500 relate to the whole structure of the company's profit-making apparatus? On the facts clearly it did not. Their earlier business with Marks and Spencer never constituted the whole of their profit-making apparatus and furthermore there was no evidence to suggest that the structure of their trade was altered after the 1961 agreement was discontinued.

The payment was made by way of compensation for loss of opportunity to extend their business. It was not related at all to the previous trade which the company had conducted with Marks and Spencer: the parties were simply looking at the trade which the company would have hoped to build up with other persons but for their connexion with Marks and Spencer.

The commissioners' conclusion was wrong, and the appeal was allowed with costs.

In *Elizabeth v Motor Insurers' Bureau Ltd* (March 31, the correct title of the "pheasant" case is *Cushman v Gratton-Storey* ((1968) 112 SJ 884).

LEGAL NOTICES

In the Matter of CLOVER BROWN ENGINEERING Limited and in the Matter of THE COMPANIES ACT 1948

Notice is hereby given that the CREDITORS of the above-named Company which is being VOLUNTARILY WOUND UP, are required, on or before the 10th day of April, 1981, to send in their full Christian and surnames, their addresses and descriptions, full particulars of their debts or claims, and the names and addresses of their Solicitors (if any), to the undersigned Keith David Goodman FCA of 3/4 Bentinck Street, London, W1A 3BA, the LIQUIDATOR of the said Company, and, if so required by notice in writing from the said Liquidator, are, personally or by their Solicitors, to come in and prove their debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved.

Dated this 27th day of February 1981.

K. D. GOODMAN, Liquidator.

THE COMPANIES ACTS 1948 TO 1967. FASHION INDUSTRIES (HARTLEPOOL) Limited.

Notice is hereby given that the CREDITORS of the above-named company are required on or before the 14th day of April 1981, to send their names and addresses and the particulars of their debts or claims, and the names and addresses of their solicitors if any, to Philip Monjack FCA of Leonard Curtis & Co., 3/4 Bentinck Street, London W1A 3BA the LIQUIDATOR of the said Company, and if so required by notice in writing from the said Liquidator, are by their Solicitors, or personally, to come in and prove their said debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved

Dated this 3rd day of March 1981.

P. MONJACK, Liquidator.

No 005053 of 1980

In the High Court of Justice Chancery Division. In the Matter of TAURUS VEHICLE LEASING Limited and in the Matter of THE COMPANIES ACT, 1948.

Notice is hereby given that the order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated 16th February, 1981 confirming the REDUCTION of the CAPITAL of the above-named Company from £62,500 to £44,016.53 and the Minute approved by the Court showing with respect to the capital of the Company as altered the several particulars required by the above-mentioned Act were registered by the Registrar of Companies on 20th February 1981.

Dated this 10th day of March 1981.

SIMMONS & SIMMONS
14 Dominion Street
London EC2M 2RJ
Solicitors for the said Company.

BARKING METAL TRADING CO. Limited.

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 293 of THE COMPANIES ACT, 1948, that a MEETING of the CREDITORS of Barking Metal Trading Co. Limited will be held at the offices of Leonard Curtis & Co., 3/4 Bentinck Street, London W1A 3BA on Thursday the 19th day of March 1981 at 12 o'clock midday, for the purposes provided for in Sections 294 and 295.

Dated the 2nd day of March 1981.

M. S. COHEN, Director.

SNAPDEAN Limited.

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 293 of THE COMPANIES ACT, 1948, that a MEETING of the CREDITORS of Snapdean Limited will be held at the offices of Leonard Curtis & Co. situate at 3/4 Bentinck Street, London, W1A 3BA, on Wednesday the 18th day of March 1981 at 12 o'clock midday for the purposes provided for in Sections 294 and 295.

Dated the 27th day of February 1981.

R. D. COLLINS, Director.

ASSOCIATED PAPER CONVERTERS Limited (In Receivership)

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 293 of THE COMPANIES ACT, 1948, that a MEETING of the CREDITORS of the above named Company will be held at the offices of Leonard Curtis & Co., situated at 3/4 Bentinck Street, London W1A 3BA, on Wednesday the 18th day of March 1981 at 12 o'clock midday, for the purposes provided for in Sections 294 and 295.

Dated the 3rd day of March 1981.

T. WILLIAMSON, Director.

CREEGREEN Limited.

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 293 of THE COMPANIES ACT, 1948, that a MEETING of the CREDITORS of Creegreen Limited, will be held at the offices of Leonard Curtis & Co., 3/4 Bentinck Street, London W1A 3BA, on Thursday the 19th day of March 1981 at 2.30 o'clock in the afternoon, for the purposes provided for in Sections 294 and 295.

Dated the 3rd day of March 1981.

N. FOX, Director.

PUBLIC NOTICES

CIVIL AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT INSPECTOR'S INVESTIGATION

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Regulation 10(1) of the Civil Aviation (Investigation of Accidents) Regulations, 1969, that an Inspector's investigation under the said Regulations is taking place into the circumstances and causes of the accident that occurred on 15 February 1981 at Sibson Airport, Nr Peterborough to Pilatus PC-6/B2-H2 G-BHCR registered in the name of Peterborough Parachute Centre Limited.

Any persons who desire to make representations as to the circumstances or causes of the accident should do so in writing to the Chief Inspector of Accidents, Accidents Investigation Branch, Department of Trade, Kingsgate House, 66-74 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6SJ, within 14 days of the date of this notice and should quote the reference EW/C 732.

Dated this 10th day of March 1981.

CIVIL AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT INSPECTOR'S INVESTIGATION

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Regulation 10(1) of the Civil Aviation (Investigation of Accidents) Regulations, 1969, that an inspector's investigation under the said Regulations is taking place into the circumstances and causes of the accident that occurred on 21 January, 1981, at Near Riplingham, Hull to Piper Aztec G-BOST registered in the name of Boston Deepsea Fisheries Ltd.

Any persons who desire to make representations as to the circumstances or causes of the accidents should do so in writing to the Chief Inspector of Accidents, Accidents Investigation Branch, Department of Trade, Kingsgate House, 66-74 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6SJ, within 14 days of the date of this notice and should quote the reference EW/C729/01.

Dated this 10th day of March. 1981.

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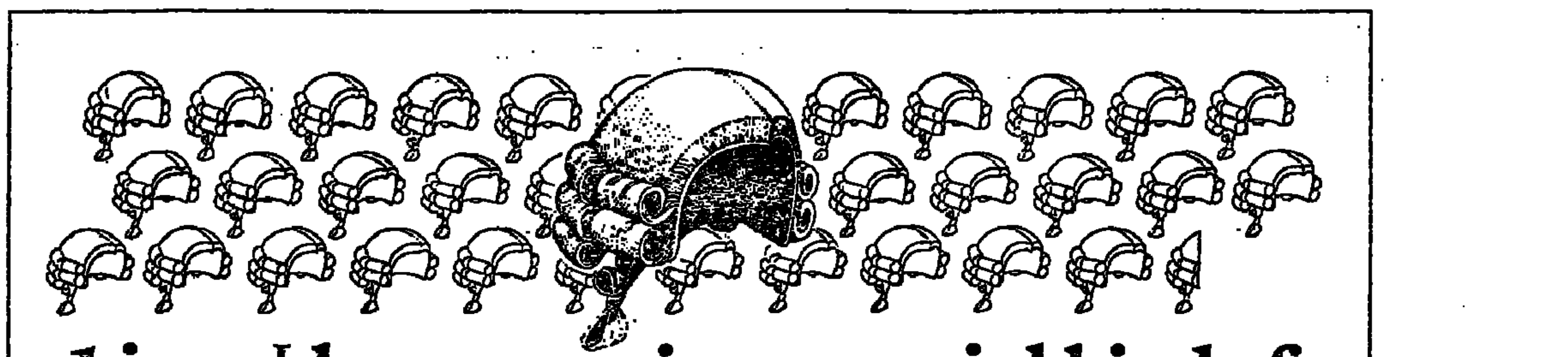
AMENDMENT TO INVITATION TO BID
EXPANSION OF TROMBAY THERMAL GENERATING STATION
500 MW UNIT

The following is amendment to the Invitation to Bid, as it appeared in the earlier issue of this paper/magazine:

1. The description of the following systems are changed to read as follows:
   A. LUBRICATING OIL CONDITIONING & TRANSFER SYSTEM FOR TURBINE AND MOTOR DRIVEN BOILER FEED PUMPS—SUPPLY AND SUPERVISION OF ERECTION AND COMMISSIONING—TCE.388-AF/L-543-01.
      (a) LUBRICATING OIL CONDITIONER
      One (1) turbine oil conditioner of capacity 1.4 M³/hr. with accessories.
      (b) TRANSFER PUMPS
      One (1) clean oil pump of 6.5 M³/hr. capacity and one (1) dirty oil pump of 1.4 M³/hr. capacity.
   D. AUXILIARY POWER AND CONTROL CABLES—SUPPLY ONLY—TCE.388-BF/L-544-01
      Sub-Item 1
      600 Volt grade, 0.5/0.8 sq.mm. nominal area, stranded copper conductor, multicore, insulated with approved flame retardant material with twisted pair/triplets of cores provided with overall shielding and/or individual pair/triplet shielding, steel armoured, overall jacketed with approved flame retardant material instrumentation service cables.
      Sub-Item 2
      600 Volt grade, 0.5/0.8 sq. mm. nominal area, stranded copper conductor, multicore, insulated with approved fire resistant material, with twisted pairs/triplets of cores provided with overall and/or individual pair/triplet shielding, steel armoured, overall jacketed with approved fire resistant material instrumentation service cables.
      The material of insulation and jacket for the above cables shall be such that no corrosive gases are generated during a fire.
      Sub-Item 3
      Lot of construction tools and accessories.
2. The paragraph No. 9 is revised as follows:
   Supply, supervision of erection and commissioning prices for 'A' shall be quoted on firm price basis. The supply prices for 'B' & 'E' shall be also quoted on firm price basis. All prices quoted for item-C and sub-items 1, 2 and 3 under item 'D' shall be on firm price basis.
3. The rest of the Invitation to Bid published remains unchanged.

Legal Appointments



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"... Ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the signs of the times?"—St. Matthew 16: 3

BIRTHS

ASHCROFT.—On 8th March, at the West London Hospital, to Anne and Michael—a daughter (Charlotte Louise).

BATEMAN.—On 5th March, at St. Thomas's Hospital, to Susannah (nee Bulman) and Nigel a son (Michael Geoffrey).

COLLINS.—On March 7th, 1981, to Edita and Roderick—a daughter (Antonia Marie-Christine).

CUMANI.—On Sunday, March 8th to Luca and Sara of Bedford House, Newmarket—a son.

CRIBBON. — On 6th March, at Queen Charlottes, to Mary-Anne (nee Camon) and Angus—a son (Edward).

DICKINSON.—On March 6th, at Chichester, to Tomoko (nee Hayama) and Anthony—a son (Edwin William), brother for Anna, Amy, Harry and Hugh.

HILLIER.—On 8th March, to Sylvia (nee Winsnes) and Tony—a daughter (Sophie).

HOLDSWORTH.—On March 6th to Gill and Dick, a daughter (Isabel Dorothy Durley) sister for Ashley and Alison.

KENNEDY.—On March 5, to Cameron and Rosalind (nee Baldwin) a son Thomas Malcolm.

MACDONALD.—On February 27, to Victoria (nee Cooke) and Martin—a son (Hugh Ernest Baird).

MARRIAN. — On March 2, to Anthony and Felicity—a daughter (Samantha Aubourn).

NASH.—On March 1, at Geelong, Australia, to Rosamond (nee de Courcy-Ireland) and Richard — a daughter (Juliet).

NICHOL.—On March 8th, to Judy and David—a daughter.

O'BRYAN.—On March 6th, to Leila (nee Wybrow) and Raymond—a son (Wesley Raymond).

O'NEILL.—On March 6, to Lesley (nee Ellis) and Bryan — a son, a brother for Alastair.

O'TOOLE.—On March 8th, at Queen Mary's, Roehampton, to Viv and Fran—a daughter (Isobel), a sister for Briony.

POTTER.—On March 5th, to Victoria (nee Ryan) and John—a son (Richard John Addison), brother for Eugenie.

TYE.—On March 7th to Vivien and Christopher at Beckenham Maternity Hospital a daughter, Rachel Louise.

WILKIE.—On March 8th, at Princess Margaret Hospital, Swindon, to Louise (nee Riley) and Richard—a son (David Nicholas Scott), a brother for Jamie and Fiona.

WESTAWAY.—On 8th March to Bridget (nee Moberley) and Peter, at Northwick Park Hospital, Harrow, twin sons.

WRIGHTSON-TISNE.—On March 7, in Paris, to Elizabeth and Laurent—a son.

BIRTHDAYS

CHRISTINE LOGGS.—21 today. Love & congrats.—Janet & Alan.

PENNY EPHSON.—Have a happy birthday.—Love Charles.

WABBIT.—I love you.—S.D.

MARRIAGE

LEWIS : PEARCE GOULD. — On March 7th at St Mary the Virgin, Hoine, Jonathan Wyndham, younger son of the late Wyndham Llewellyn Thomas Lewis, and of Mrs Freda Lewis, of Stoke Poges, Bucks, to Rosemary Enid, younger daughter of Anne and John Pearce Gould, of Hoine, Devon.

DEATHS

FARR, HARRY FREDERICK.—Tragically at Seattle, U.S.A., on 25th February, 1981. Much loved husband of Sheila and father of Simon.

GARNETT, HARPER.—On March 7th 1981 at Mount Alvernia Hospital, Guildford, John Garnett Harper, J.P., of Brook House, Shalford, Surrey, husband of Elizabeth (Billie) and father of David, Richard and Tessa. His body has been given at his wish to the Department of Anatomy and Embryology at University College of London to benefit medical education. A service of thanksgiving for his life will be held at St Mary's Church, Shalford on Friday, March 13th at 12 noon.

GASTER, FRANCIS JOSEPH, peacefully at home, Sunday 8th March 1981. Funeral at Spanish & Portuguese Jews Cemetery, Hoop Lane, Golders Green, today (Tuesday) at 5 p.m. Prayers at 6 p.m. 4 The Drive, Fordington Road Highgate, N.6.

GORDON, DONNA.—On 26th February 1981, peacefully, at St Mary's Hospital, Hereford.

HOULDER.—On March 8th, 1981, at St. Richard's Hospital, Chichester, Clive Beckingham Houlder, of Lurgashall, Sussex. Funeral at 2.30 p.m. St. Lawrence Church, Lurgashall, on Thursday, 12th March.

HOLDSWORTH.—On 5th March, in Tokyo, suddenly, Derek Holdsworth, President of Unilever (Japan) K.K., beloved husband of Alice Holdsworth, revered stepfather of Lawson, and loving son of Mary Elizabeth Holdsworth. The funeral took place in Tokyo on Sunday, 8th March.

HOWSE.—On 7th March, 1981, peacefully, at Barshaw Hospital, Paisley, Henrietta Rose Chichelliana, A.R.M.S., aged 89 years, formerly of Blackheath and Kilmacolm, widow of Captain Humphrey F. Howse, R.N., and beloved mother of Derek and Sarah. Service at Woodside Crematorium, Paisley, on Wednesday, 11th March, at 2.30 p.m. Family flowers only.

JOHN.—On March 9th, 1981, Gwynfryn of 9 Heol-y-Felin, Rhiwbina, Cardiff, former Major 2nd 2nd King's Own Gurkha Rifles, husband of Grace, dearest father of Ingrid and Karl, dear father-in-law of Stewart and Malay, much loved grandfather of Simon and Anna, beloved son of Mrs Elizabeth John and the late David William John. Funeral Friday, March 13th, service 12.30 pm at Beulah United Reformed Church, Cardiff, and afterwards at Thornhill Crematorium. Flowers may be sent to D. J. Evans, Forse and Company Ltd., Whitchurch Funeral Home, Cardiff.

KELF-COHEN.—On March 7th, peacefully, at his daughter's home, Reuben Kelf-Cohen, CB, aged 85, of 14 Harold Road, London, SE19. Funeral at South London Crematorium, Rowan Road, Streatham, SW16, on Thursday, 12th March, at 12.30 pm. Family flowers only.

LAMB.—On 7th March, 1981, in hospital, Rudolf, aged 87 years, of 54 Clarendon Avenue, Leamington Spa. Funeral Service 11.30 a.m., Friday, 13th March at St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church, Leamington Spa.

McDONALD.—On 6th March, 1981, Sub.-Lt. Marcus Hugh McDonald, R.N., 820 Squadron Fleet Air Arm, tragically at sea off H.M.S. Invincible, aged 22 years. Beloved only son of Hugh and Dorothy McDonald, adored brother of Sarah and Phoebe.

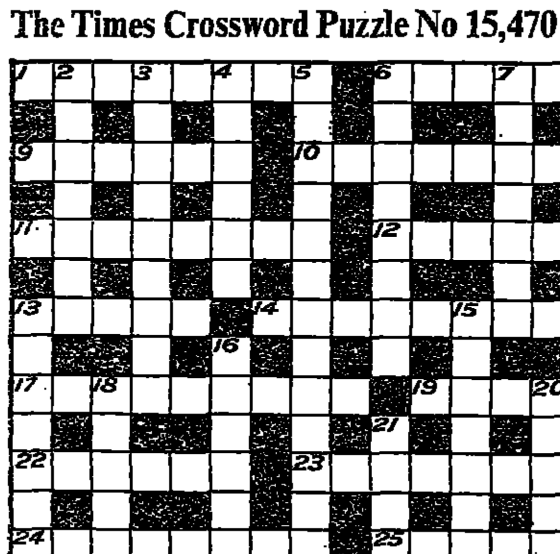
MALDEN.—On March 7th, 1981, at Ashburton Hospital, Charles Melville, Lt.-Col. (retd), late 15th Frontier Force Rifles...

...

de BRISAY.—On March 7th, 1981, peacefully in Exmouth, Olive Mary, widow of Col. Robert de Brisay. Service at Exeter Crematorium, Friday, 13th March, 4 pm. Flowers to Crews & Son, Exmouth.

SPENCE. — On March 7, 1981, peacefully, in Alton General Hospital, Lena, aged 81, beloved wife of Dr. A. W. Spence. Funeral, Thursday, March 12 at 1.15 p.m., East Sheen Cemetery Chapel, Sheen Road, Richmond, Surrey. Family flowers only.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 15,470



ACROSS

1 Gave relief to headman in the Levant briefly (8).
6 Grip making drive effective (6).
9 Alternative introduction to threatening letter ? (6).
10 State's tobacco stock (8).
11 Old German statesman coloured athlete could follow (8).
12 Hint of a wrinkle ? That's bad (3, 3).
13 Crop producing flower, say (5).
14 Is this duck a gross feeder ? (9).
17 Plant making organ, worthless character (9).
19 Point to pole cat out to play (5).
22 Junior officer once cut short ginseng treatment (6).
23 Couldn't this attitude imply indifference ? (8).
24 Close in at time of trouble (8).
25 Washington's nomination for New York (6).
26 Aim, four-point growth (6).
27 Plant that cries out to be extirpated (8).

DOWN

2 Scotsman put up artist to honour the ruler (7).
3 Exaggerate past condition (9).
4 The point is relative to the bird (6).
5 Does this delicacy seem over-rich and possibly fattening ? (10, 5).
6 Poor dog had meal about four with healing result (8).
7 Wrapper that can baffle ? (7).
8 Adjusting a red shift—how the bull charged ! (4, 5).
13 Distracted lover in drink appears a glutton (9).
15 Connection with more recent writer (9).
16 Ballet scene opening on pale colour (4, 4).
18 Called on girl to exchange diets (7).
20 Man on the left returned fire of foreign cavalryman (7).
21 State gold has gone astray (6).

Solution of Puzzle No 15,469

PERSONAL COLUMNS

ALSO ON PAGE 24

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(continued on page 24)

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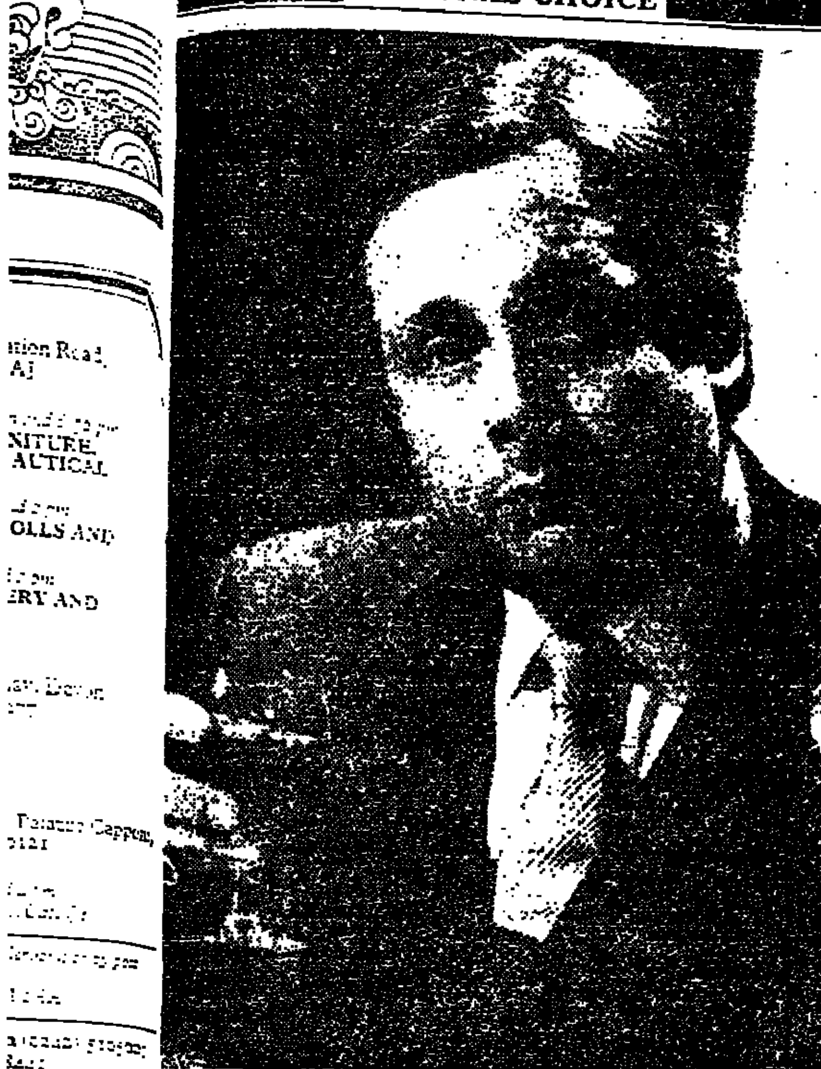
Broadcasting Guide

Edited by Peter Dear

PERSONAL CHOICE



Christopher Biggins as Spencer Nugent, the Political Editor of a newspaper rival to The Globe, in tonight's episode of the comedy/thriller serial Bognor (ITV 7.30).

● Dominating radio and television today is, quite rightly of course, the Budget. Radios One and Four begin their coverage at 3.15 while on television BBC 1 and ITV start at 3.00. Follow-up programmes, including the Chancellor himself explaining his reasons for the proposals, can be seen and heard later in the evening. But what is there for the listener and viewer who has no desire to see or hear too much of what is in store for us? On BBC 1 there is a play about the Indian community in Birmingham (The Garland, 9.35) and on ITV a play concerning a pair of wayward teenaged girls (Little Girls Don't 9.00) both of them sound somewhat sombre and not the sort of things to view if you need cheering up. Perhaps the best programme to take your mind off matters financial is Pot Black.

● The club-like atmosphere of quiet and calm that accompanies the participants in Pot Black (BBC 2 9.00 pm) always heightens, for me anyway, the drama of a miscue but then the reassuring tone of Ted Lowe brings me back to my previous relaxed state. But tonight might be different. It is the first semi-final and a two frame match, decided on aggregate if it is one frame all. Competing for a place in the final is six times world snooker champion Ray Reardon, a Welshman now living in Stoke and Jim Wych of Calgary, Canada, who defeated Alec Higgins last week in a very tense match. Although Wych does not have the experience of Reardon he is a former Canadian amateur champion. Whoever wins it will be a most entertaining fifty minutes marred only by the totally inappropriate honky-tonk credit music.

● An Eye for an Eye (Radio 4, 7.50 pm) could be sub-titled The Loneliness of the Long Distance Hunter because it is about Simon Wiesenthal, the Jew who, since he was released from a German concentration camp in 1944 has spent his life searching for escaped Nazi war criminals but is now the only person actively engaged in this pursuit. Bernard Jackson went to visit him in Vienna to find out what spurs the man on. Is it the motive of revenge or is it simply justice? Mr Jackson talks to other Jewish survivors of Nazi atrocities to see what they think and also to the Chief Rabbi, Dr Immanuel Jakobovits who explains the Jewish teaching on revenge and forgiveness.

WHAT THE SYMBOLS MEAN: †STEREO; *BLACK AND WHITE; (r) REPEAT.

TELEVISION

BBC 1

6.40 am Open University: Life on Seashores; 7.05 Electron Microscopy; 7.30 Species and Evolution. Closedown at 7.55.

9.05 For Schools, Colleges: News in French; 9.35 Making Stained Glass; 9.57 Language development for young children; 10.16 Look and Read; 11.00 Watch; 11.17 Television Club; 11.38 Understanding Shakespeare's All's Well That Ends Well; 12.05 pm General Studies: Alan Sillitoe; Interval at 12.35.

12.45 News.

1.00 Pebble Mill at One: Bob Langley visits The World of Wheels Exhibition at Birmingham to see the latest custom built cars and motorcycles. In addition, the weekly problem feature, Family Matters, will be shown; 1.45 Pigeon Street: Noisy neighbours; 2.00 You and Me (r).

2.14 For Schools, Colleges: Germany; 2.40 Vitamin C.

3.00 Nationwide Budget Special: David Dimbleby introduces live coverage of the Chancellor's third Budget. With him in the studio to analyse the speech are Peter Oppenheimer, Philip Hardman, Len Murray and Alan Lord. From Westminster, Robin Day will bring leading politicians' reaction to the measures while at the Stock Exchange Brian Widlake will assess the City's feeling. Bill Kerr Elliot will be asking the general public in London what they think of the afternoon's developments and Nicholas Woolley will be in Consett asking the same question. 5.40 News read by Jan Leeming; 5.55 Regional news. 6.20 Nationwide will include latest reactions to Sir Geoffrey's speech.

6.45 Rolf Harris Cartoon Time: Four more favourites, each one starring Tom and Jerry; 7.15 Taxi: A popular American comedy series surrounding the drivers and passengers of the Sunshine Cab Company of New York.

7.40 Seapower: In the fourth of his seven programmes on the history of fighting ships, Admiral of the Fleet, the Lord Hill-Norton discusses the Commando and amphibious craft.

8.10 When the Boat Comes In: In part four Jack is offered a lucrative job as a platoon commander guarding a company's private airfield in South America.

9.00 News read by John Edmunds.

9.25 The Budget: The Chancellor of the Exchequer explains his measures.

9.35 Play: The Garland by H. O. Nazareth and Horace Ove. Filmed entirely on location in Birmingham, the story is about two Indian families—one modern the other traditional—and how one helping the other precipitates a tragedy.

11.05 Platform One: Bob Wellings talks to people who have been closely affected by the slump.

11.35 News headlines and weather.

Regions

BBC 1 VARIATIONS: Cymru Wales 11.38 am-12.05 am Dechrau Siarad (17). 5.55-6.20 Wales Today. 6.45-7.10 Heddiw. 7.10-7.40 Pobol y Cwm. 11.35 News and weather. Scotland: 10.38 am-10.58 For Schools: Around Scotland. 12.40 pm-12.45 The Scottish News. 5.55-6.20 Reporting Scotland. 6.45-7.15 Rolf Harris Cartoon Time. 11.05-11.35 Current Account. 11.35 News and weather. Northern Ireland: 10.38 am-10.58 For Schools: Ulster in Focus. 5.55 pm-6.20 Scene Around Six. 6.45-7.15 Make Mine Country. 11.35 News and weather. England: 5.55 pm-6.20 Regional Magazines. 6.45-7.15 East—It's Your Palace. London and South East—Rolf Harris Cartoon Time. Midlands—Look! Hear! North—Hometown: Bingley. North East—Tooth Natural. North West—Towards Tomorrow. South—Smiling City. South West—The Music Quiz. West—Day Out: Bristol. 11.40 Close.

BBC 2

6.40 am Open University: Industrial Architecture; 7.05 Into the Earth; 7.30 Changing Sea Levels. Closedown at 7.55.

10.00 Business World: A series of ten programmes for the owners of small businesses. Number nine: Staying in Business. Closedown at 10.25.

11.00 Play School: Peter Wiltshire's The Jumping King is the story this morning and the presenters are Carol Leader and Chris Tranchell; 11.25 Speak for Yourself: Advice for non-English speakers who have difficulty in making themselves understood. This morning it is the subject of children's education (r); Closedown at 11.50.

2.30 pm Roads to Conflict: The ninth of ten programmes explaining the origins of the Arab/Israeli conflict (r); 3.00 Propaganda with Facts: A look at the cinema and public opinion in the 1940s (r); 3.30 A Child's Place: Explaining the rights of children; 3.55 Play School (shown earlier at 11.00); 4.20 Secret Squirrel. A cartoon entitled Leave Wheel Enough Alone (r); 4.25 Jackanory: John Duttine reads the second part of Mary Stewart's A Walk in Wolf Wood; 4.40 Isla and Farm on the Hill: Isla St Clair finds out what there is to do on a Welsh hill farm during the summer; 5.05 John Craven's Newsround; 5.10 Children of Fire Mountain: An adventure serial in thirteen parts set in New Zealand at the turn of the century. Part two: Miss Prim; 5.40 King of the Rocket Men: A jolly science fiction adventure serial; 6.05 Waggle: Adventures of a cottage Glaswegian lass based on the stories by Joan Lingard.

6.30 News including a sub-titled synopsis for the hard-of-hearing.

6.35 One Hundred Great Paintings: Anita Brookner examines Rigaud's Louis XIV which hangs at the Louvre in the third painting on the theme of Adoration.

6.45 Film: Rio Bravo (1956) starring John Wayne and Dean Martin. A town is besieged by the brother of a man arrested for murder. Can the sheriff and his ill assorted allies hold out?

9.00 Pot Black 81: It's semi-final time and playing in this first one over two frames is former world champion Ray Reardon of Wales and Jim Wych from Canada. The commentary is by Ted Lowe (see Personal Choice).

9.50 One Man and His Dog: Three English shepherds and their dogs compete this evening in the second of eight programmes. Before each competitor begins his trial we see film of them on their own patch. The action is introduced by Phil Drabble with Eric Halsall.

10.30 Cartoon Two: A Canadian offering entitled The Twitch.

10.45 Newsnight. Home and world news plus the latest sport.

11.30 The Budget: Sir Geoffrey explains his measures (shown earlier on BBC 1 at 9.25).

11.40 Open University: What is Combinatorics? Ends at 12.10 am.

THAMES

9.30 am For Schools: Elementary Maths; 9.47 Aspects of Sikhism; 10.04 Different types of humour; 10.26 Exploring the Tweed Valley with Bill Grundy; 10.48 A-level chemistry; 11.05 Maths for seven- to nine-year olds; 11.22 How to make creative use of leisure; 11.39 Leisure and work ethic.

12.00 Jamie and the Magic Torch: Cartoon adventures of a young boy and his dog (r); 12.10 pm Pipkins: For the very young. 12.30 The Sullivans: The story of an Australian family during World War Two.

1.00 News read by Peter Sissons; 1.20 Thames News with Robin Houston.

1.30 Crown Court: Continuing the case of the medium accused of defrauding a widow (r); 2.00 After Noon Plus presented by Judith Chalmers. Included today are items on smoking. In addition, Judith plays a game of tiddlywinks.

3.00 Budget 81: Alastair Burnet, Peter Sissons and Martyn Lewis are the ITN team covering the Chancellor's speech. Burnet is the anchorman, Sissons, with the help of a graphics display system, illustrates the implications of the measures while Lewis talks to a panel of experts including Sir Raymond Pennock and Alan Fisher. From the City Giles Smith reports on the reaction there.

5.45 News; 6.00 Thames News with Andrew Gardner and Rita Carter.

6.25 Help! presented by Viv Taylor Gee; 6.35 Crossroads; 7.00 Emmerdale Farm.

7.30 Bognor: Our reluctant sleuth, masquerading as a journalist, still has no clues to the murder of a possibly columnist and becomes even more baffled when somebody who offers to give him some information is herself killed; 8.00 Robin's Nest: Comedy series about a bistro owner and his family; 8.30 Janet and Company: Among the impersonated personalities this evening are Cleo Laine, Wendy Craig and Zsa Zsa Gabor. Helping Miss Brown tonight are David Jacobs and Norman Rossington.

9.00 Play: Little Girls Don't by Frances Galleymore and starring Toyah Wilcox and Rosalyn Landor. Abbie is the teenaged daughter of a failed marriage. She and her friend Sheryl set out to prove that the more your mother says 'don't' the more likely you are to end up doing it.

10.00 News.

10.30 The Chancellor of the Exchequer: Sir Geoffrey explains the measures he presented to the House of Commons this afternoon.

10.40 Midweek Sports Special. Highlights of one of tonight's FA Cup sixth round replays.

12.35 am Close.

RADIO

Radio 4

6.00 am News Briefing. 6.10 Farming Today. 6.30 Today. 7.00, 8.00 News. 7.30, 8.30 Headlines. 8.35 Yesterday in Parliament. 9.00 News. 9.05 Tuesday Call. 10.00 News. 10.02 From Our Own Correspondent. 10.30 Daily Service. 10.45 Story: The Craftsmen, by Frank R. Wallace. 11.00 News. 11.05 Play: All for Jeremy, by John Challen. 11.35 Wildlife. 12.00 News. 12.02 pm You and Yours. 12.20 Down Your Way. 12.55 Weather. 1.00 The World at One. 1.40 The Archers. 2.00 News. 2.02 Woman's Hour. 3.00 News. 3.02 The Trumpet Major (12). 3.17 The Budget. 5.55 Weather. 6.00 News. 7.00 News. 7.05 The Archers. 7.20 Medicine Now. 7.50 An Eye for an Eye (see Personal Choice). 8.35 Love's Old Sweet Song (1). 9.05 In Touch. 9.30 Kaleidoscope. 10.00 The World Tonight. 10.30 Earthsearch (10).† 11.00 The Painted Veil (12). 11.15 Financial World Tonight. 11.30 Today in Parliament. 12.00 News. 12.15 am-12.23 Shipping forecast.

VHF

9.05 am Schools: Deutsch für die Oberstufe (7); Music Interlude; Voix de France (7); Music Interlude; News; Music Interlude; Playtime. 10.30-10.45 Listen with Mother. 11.00-12.00 Schools: Let's Move! (1); Music Interlude; Introducing Science. 2.00 pm-3.00 Schools: History—Long Ago; Secondary Science; Stories and Rhymes.

11.00 Study on 4: Allez-France! (19). 11.30-12.10 am Open University: Athens and the Peloponnese; Comparative Politics.

Radio 3

6.55 am Weather. 7.00 News. 7.05 Records: Glinka, Mozart, Poulenc.† 8.00 News. 8.05 Records: Vivaldi, Monteverdi, Saint-Saëns.† 9.00 News. 9.05 This Week's Composer: Clementi (incl. Sym. 2).† 9.45 Piano duet (Shelley/Macnamara), singers (BBC Northern): Weelkes, Warlock, Arnold, Schumann, Grieg, Hoddinott (Dulcia iuventutis—1st bdcst).† 11.30 Guitar: Sor, Rodrigo.† 12.05 pm BBC Welsh SO/Boencher, pt 1: Weber, Beethoven (Pno Conc 5—Pommier).† 1.00 News. 1.05 Six Continents. 1.25 BBCWSO, pt 2: Dvorak (Sym 7).† 2.05 Quartet (Gabrieli): Haydn, Szymanowski, Beethoven (op 131).† 3.35 Piano (Binns): Berkeley, Hawthorne, Figgott.† 4.25 Jazz Today.† 4.55 News. 5.00 Mainly for Pleasure.† 6.30 Opera: Tristan und Isolde, by Wagner (Behrens, Minton/McIl, Nimsgern, Wenkoff/Bavarian State Opera/Sawallisch), Act I.† 7.50 The Lyttelton/Hart-Davis Letters (2). 8.10 Tristan und Isolde, Act II.† 9.25 Talk (Annan): Running a University. 11.00 News. 11.05-11.15 Record: Ligeti.†

VHF

5.55 am-6.55 Open University: New Tonalities: Germany 1789-1820. 11.15 pm-12.55 am Open University: The Threat of Leviathan; Partial Differential Equations; Patterns of Inequality; Decision Making in Britain; The Interested Parties.

Radio 2

5.00 am Bob Kilbey.† 7.30 Terry Wogan.† 10.00 Jimmy Young.† 12.00 David Hamilton.† 2.00 pm Steve Jones.† 3.15 Budget.† 6.30 John Dunn.† 8.00 The Leading Ladies.† 9.00 The Songwriters.† 10.00 The Law Game. 10.30 Funny You Should Ask. 11.00 Brian Matthew. 2.00 am-5.00 You and the Night and the Music.†

Radio 1

5.00 am As Radio 2. 7.00 Mike Read. 9.00 Simon Bates. 11.00 Andy Peebles. 12.30 pm Newsbeat. 12.45 Paul Burnett. 2.30 Dave Lee Travis. 4.30 Peter Powell. 7.00 Talkabout. 8.00 Richard Skinner. 10.00 John Peel.† 12.00 Close. VHF RADIOS 1 AND 2: 5.00 am With Radio 2. 10.00 pm With Radio 1. 12.00-5.00 am With Radio 2.

World Service

[illegible] 12.15 Radio Newsreel. 12.30 A Jolly Good Show. 1.15 Outlook. 1.45 Report on Religion. 2.00 World News. 2.09 Review of the British Press. 2.15 Four Hands in Harmony. 2.30 With Great Pleasure. 3.00 World News. 3.09 News about Britain. 3.15 The World Today. 3.30 Discovery. 4.00 Newsdesk. 5.45 The World Today.

WAVELENGTHS: Radio 1 medium wave 275m/1089kHz or 285m/1053kHz. Radio 2 med wave 330m/909kHz or 433m/693kHz and 88-91 VHF. Radio 3 med wave 247m/1215kHz and 90-92.5 VHF. Radio 4 long wave 1500m/200kHz and 92-95 VHF. Greater London area only: med wave 720kHz/417m. LBC 261m, 97.3 VHF, Capital 194m, 95.8 VHF. World Service: med wave 648kHz (463m). BBC Radio London 206m, 94.9 VHF.

REGIONAL TV

Scottish

As Thames except: 12.30 pm-1.00 Gardening Today. 1.20-1.30 News. 6.00 Scotland Today. 6.20 Job Spot. 6.30 What's Your Problem? 7.00-7.30 Emmerdale Farm. 10.40 Late Call. 10.45-12.30 am Tenspeed and Brown Shoe.

Yorkshire

As Thames except: 12.30pm-1.00 Looks Familiar. 1.20-1.30 News. 6.00-6.35 Calendar. 7.00-7.30 Emmerdale Farm. 10.40-12.20 am Film: Glass House (Alan Alda).

Granada

As Thames except: 1.20 pm-1.30 Granada Reports. 6.00 Granada Reports. 6.25 This Is Your Right. 6.30 Crossroads. 7.00-7.30 Emmerdale Farm. 10.40 Film: Where Have All the People Gone? (Peter Graves). 12.05 am-12.25 After All That, This.

Channel

As Thames except: 12.00 Closedown. 12.30 pm-1.00 Gardening Today. 1.20-1.30 News. 6.00-6.35 Channel Report. 7.00-7.30 Benson. 10.28 News. 10.32 Chance to Meet... Gordon Banks. 10.40-11.20 Snooker.

Ulster

As Thames except: 1.20 pm-1.30 Lunchtime. 2.59-3.00 News. 6.00 Good Evening Ulster. 7.00-7.30 Emmerdale Farm. 10.40 It's a Musical World. 11.40-11.50 Bedtime.

Southern

As Thames except: 1.20 pm-1.30 News. 6.00 Day By Day. 7.00-7.30 Emmerdale Farm. 10.40 Charlie's Angels. 12.25 am Weather followed by Ian Caddy Sings.

Robert Glenister: ITV, 9.00 pm.

Tyne Tees

As Thames except: Starts 9.20 am Good Word. 9.25-9.30 News. 1.20 pm-1.30 News. Lookaround. 6.00 News. 6.02 Crossroads. 6.25 Northern Life. 7.00-7.30 Emmerdale Farm. 10.30 News. 10.32 Chancellor of the Exchequer. 10.40 New Avengers. 11.40 Paris by Night. 12.10 am-12.15 Value of Things.

Border

As Thames except: 1.20 pm-1.30 News. 6.00-6.35 Lookaround. 7.00-7.30 Emmerdale Farm. 10.40 It's a Musical World. 11.30-11.33 News.

ATV

As Thames except: 12.30 pm-1.00 Gardening Today. 1.20-1.30 News. 6.00 News. 6.05 Crossroads. 6.30 ATV Today. 7.00-7.30 Emmerdale Farm. 10.40 Film: Buttercup Chain (Hywel Bennett, Jane Asher). 12.30 am-12.35 News.

Anglia

As Thames except: 12.30 pm-1.00 Out of Town. 1.20-1.30 News. 6.00-6.35 About Anglia. 7.00-7.30 Life Begins at Forty. 10.40 Film: Dion Brothers (Stacey Keach, Frederic Forrest). 12.25 am Pilgrims Way.

Westward

As Thames except: 12.27 pm Gus Honeybun's Birthdays. 12.30-1.00 Gardening Today. 1.20-1.30 News. 6.00-6.35 Westward Diary. 7.00-7.30 Benson. 10.31 News. 10.34 Chancellor of the Exchequer. 10.40 Snooker. 11.20-11.25 Faith for Life.

Grampian

As Thames except: Starts 9.25 am-9.30 First Thing. 12.30 pm-1.00 Simply Sewing. 1.20-1.30 News. 6.00-6.35 North Tonight. 7.00-7.30 Welcome to the Ceilidh. 10.40 Film: Where Have All the People Gone? (Peter Graves). 12.10 am-12.15 News.

HTV

As Thames except: 12.30 pm-1.00 George Hamilton IV. 1.20-1.30 News. 6.00 Report West. 6.30 Definition. 7.00-7.30 Emmerdale Farm. 10.28-10.30 News. 10.40-12.10 am Twilight People.

HTV CYMRU/WALES: As HTV West except: 9.47 am-10.02 Wales and the Sea. 10.48-11.03 Believe it or Not. 12.00-12.05 pm Poli A Pili. 12.05-12.10 Calimero. 6.00-6.15 Y Dydd. 6.15-6.30 Report Wales. 10.40-11.25 Heddiw a Ddilyn Ddoe. 11.25-12.20 am Quincy.

Entertainments Guide

Classified Guide

Intelligence target for strike disruption stays in operation

By Peter Hennessy

To the great relief of the Whitehall intelligence community, the Government's highly sensitive Composite Signals Organization Station at Bude in Cornwall, which tracks the path of Soviet spy satellites as they cross the British Isles and western Europe, remained operational yesterday despite being singled out by the Council of Civil Service Unions for continued selective strike action.

Union sources claimed that about 30 per cent of communications staff failed to report for work, but it was clear that sufficient station radio officers and other important grades did turn up to sustain the flow of intelligence to the British and United States governments.

The Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ), the central establishment of the Composite Signals Organization in Cheltenham, said the figure of 30 per cent of strikers was too high.

Last week union leaders were summoned to the Civil Service Department where Sir John Herbecq, its second permanent secretary, told them in the strongest terms of the seriousness with which Whitehall and Washington would view the shutting down of so important a station.

The GCHQ confirmed that the seven United Kingdom listening stations of the Composite Signals Organization were seriously affected by Monday's one-day strike. All staff were back at work yesterday with the exception of those still out at Bude.

No reliable information is available yet for the Composite Signals Organization's overseas listening posts.

Other sensitive installations affected by continued action yesterday were a battery of establishments in Scotland connected with the maintenance of the country's strategic nuclear deterrent. The Ministry of Defence said that the operational capability of the Polaris submarine squadron, the carrier of the deterrent, was not jeopardized.

At Coulport, on Loch Long, where the Polaris missiles are stored, 29 of 608 white-collar staff failed to report for work.

At Rosyth on the Firth of Forth, where the Polaris submarine HMS Revenge is undergoing a refit, 55 of the 65 staff in the base's computer bureau, which handles refits and the payment of industrial workers, were absent.

Most staff who did turn up for duty at Coulport, Rosyth and at Faslane, on the Gareloch where the Polaris squadron is based, were working to rule yesterday.

Chatham, Portsmouth and Devonport naval bases were affected by selective strike action by computer staff yesterday. The Army Department reported no disruption, while action in the Air Force Department was confined to a few officials at the headquarters of the Northern Maritime Air Region at Pitreavie in Fife.

Concession to critics on rights of citizenship

By Philip Webster
Parliamentary Staff

People holding British citizenship by registration or naturalization will be able to transmit it to their children born overseas on the same terms as citizens born in the United Kingdom, after the passage of a government amendment to the Nationality Bill yesterday.

In the Bill as originally drafted the Government proposed that in general citizenship should descend only to the first generation of children born abroad to the United Kingdom.

It has responded to considerable opposition to the provision from Labour and representatives of minority communities.

During the standing committee debate on the amendment Mr John Tilley, an Opposition home affairs spokesman, defended an advertisement in an Indian newspaper by the Commission for Racial Equality criticizing the original proposal.

Mr Ivor Stanbrook, Conservative MP for Bromley, Orpington, who opposed the government amendment, had said that it was strange that a publicly financed body should be allowed to campaign against government policy.

Mr Tilley said the advertisement drawing the attention of ethnic minorities to the Bill's provisions was valuable.

The amendment was carried by 21 votes to two, Mr Stanbrook and Mr Enoch Powell voting against.

'Local democracy in danger as hundreds of experienced officers are ousted'

Labour left infiltrating big city councils, Lord Lever says

By Christopher Warman
Local Government Correspondent

Hundreds of experienced Labour councillors have been ousted from local authorities in the big cities as part of the left-wing attempt to take control of the Labour Party, according to Lord Lever of Manchester, a former senior minister in the last Labour Government.

He makes the accusation in *London Review of Books*, published today, while discussing the changes in the party constitution proposed by the left.

Lord Lever, made a life peer in 1979, was an MP from 1945 to 1979 representing three Manchester constituencies.

Referring to the proposals for the reselection of MPs, he argues that there is a local back-up to the undermining of MPs which he claims has received too little attention in the media.

"A similar process has been even more successfully and ruthlessly applied in the control of municipal officers. Hundreds of experienced councillors of high quality have been ousted in favour of the nominees of this alliance of left wingers and recently arrived extremists."

Even more outrageous demands for control over council members had been organized and to a large extent accomplished in all the great cities which enjoyed large Labour representation, such as London, Manchester, Liverpool and Birmingham. "The absence of these local figures further weakens the position of moderate MPs as well as dangerously undermining local democracy."

What was so dismaying was that almost without exception the most experienced and respected leaders of the party knew that the course being pursued, direct accountability of MPs to their local party caucus, control of the election of the party leader and binding the parliamentary party to the election manifesto, was dangerously wrong.

"Some of the most gifted of them have been driven to leave the party. Many others will follow. Unless the whole programme is reversed, and this very soon, I believe that the public will come to the conclusion that it is wholly unsafe to elect a Labour majority."

Lord Lever concludes that if the Labour Party is to resume its former great role in developing society within the framework of the parliamentary system "it will have to mobilize all the moderate democratic forces within it and within the trade union movement.

"The first and minimum step at the next party conference is not some irrelevant decision about the percentages of representation in an electoral college, but the clear abandonment of this illegitimate proposal."

The unrepresentative majority of the NEC must be corrected to restore to Labour MPs and councillors the democratic rights they had hitherto enjoyed as trustees for the electorate. The Labour Party leaders knew well that the undermining of the independence of MPs by extra-parliamentary appointment of the parliamentary party's leadership, and the demolition of local representation which had been taking place, were all wrong.

Northampton fight: The breakaway social democratic group in Northampton decided yesterday to fight up to 21 seats in the county council elections in May (Our Northampton Correspondent writes).

Workmen inspecting the washed-away section of line at Cowley Bridge, Exeter, yesterday, after the River Exe overflowed.

Flooded river cuts rail link in West Country

By John Roper

The main line from Paddington to Penzance was cut for some hours yesterday when the River Exe overflowed at Cowley, near Exeter, and tons of ballast washed away about eighty yards of track.

More than 24 hours of heavy rain caused severe flooding in the West Country, South Wales and the Midlands, and an anxious watch was kept on river banks near to bursting point. Further rain is forecast, particularly in the West.

Hundreds of acres of farmland were under water last night. At least five Devon rivers overflowed, and in South Wales police issued a red alert in the Bridgend area, where 11 rivers were running dangerously high.

The villages of Stoke Canon, near Exeter, and Dulverton, on Exmoor, were cut off. At the Exmoor village of Wonford the bridge was washed away. In north Devon houses in Bideford were flooded when the rivers Taw and Torridge overflowed; and South Molton and Alswear were cut off.

In Tiverton and Exeter flood prevention schemes saved low-lying homes from flooding when the Exe lapped the top of concrete barriers.

There was flooding too at Leicester when the River Soar overflowed, and many roads were impassable.

Speed restrictions were in force on the M3, and the M27 because of spray danger.

18 hurt in crash: Eighteen people were taken to hospital after a coach and lorry collided on the M6 near Stafford during heavy rain (the Press Association reports). Most were treated for minor injuries, but four were badly hurt. The injured were taken to hospital in Stafford and Stoke-on-Trent.

Father takes council to court over pupil fares

By Richard Ford

A parent challenged a county council in the High Court yesterday over a decision to charge children under nine for travelling to school if they live less than two miles away.

The decision by Suffolk County Council, made in the interests of economy eight months ago, was challenged by a son aged five. He and other parents are being asked to pay £15 a term, or a maximum of £30 a family, towards transport costs for young children living within the two-mile limit.

An estimated 2,000 children will be affected by the policy and the council say it hopes to save £200,000 a year. At the hearing before Mr Justice McNeill, Mr David Penry-Davey, counsel for Mr Graham Jones of Golton Cottage, Fornham All Saints, Bury St Edmunds, sought an injunction stopping the council from implementing their decision and a declaration that it was ultra vires and void.

Under the plans the county council is to alter its policy of providing free transport to bring them back to guidelines laid down in the Education Act of 1944. Those are that local education authorities provide free transport for any child under the age of eight living more than two miles from school and for any child living more than three miles away.

Mr Penry-Davey said in changing the policy last July the council took into account matters which they were not entitled to consider.

Mr Alan Fletcher, for Suffolk County Council, said the authority had been trying since local government reorganization to standardize its policy.

The case continues today.

Five groups in cable TV scheme

By Kenneth Gosling

Five companies are to start two-year pilot schemes to provide subscription television by cable broadcast relay systems, Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, announced yesterday.

The operators and areas are: British Telecom, Milton Keynes; Greenwich Cablevision Ltd, Greenwich; Philips Cable Television Ltd, Northampton and Tredegar, Gwent; Radio Rentals Cable Television Ltd, Chatham, Rochester, Gillingham and Swindon; and Rediffusion Ltd, Burnley, Hull, Pontypridd, Reading and Tunbridge Wells.

The new services, expected to begin this summer, could be available to about 76,000 householders if they pay the monthly charge of £5 to £8. About 22,000 subscribers live in the five areas served by Rediffusion. But Rediffusion has a potential of 56,000 homes through which their existing cable passes.

Between £10 and £20 will be charged for the necessary initial equipment, and companies will chiefly supply feature films which cannot be less than a year old.

Black lawyer to head immigration inquiry

By Lucy Hodges

The formal investigation by the Commission for Racial Equality (CRE) into the way in which immigration officers operate is running into trade union difficulties. They will be the subject of delicate negotiations this week.

The inquiry into the immigration service, which went ahead last October after a High Court hearing at which the Home Office tried to block the investigation, has yet to be set up.

However, Sir Roy Marshall, vice-chancellor of Hull University, a special commissioner, has been appointed to head the investigation and his appointment has been approved by the Home Office.

The delay is caused by the Society of Civil and Public Servants, the union representing 1,450 immigration officers at Britain's air and sea ports.

Sir Roy is a black lawyer who has been involved in the race relations field for a long time. He is a former professor of law at Sheffield University and a former vice-chancellor of the University of the West Indies.

The decision to investigate the immigration service goes back to the so-called virginity testing scandal two years ago when an Asian woman underwent a gynaecological examination at Heathrow airport.

The union refused to comment yesterday on its objections to the inquiry but it is believed its difficulties are compounded because it also represents many of the CRE's staff.

Immigration officers are sceptical about the Commission's impartiality. They feel it is subject to political pressure from ethnic minority groups and therefore cannot produce an independent report on possible racial discrimination in the immigration service.

They are believed to be asking for a parliamentary inquiry into the service, believing that it would be more impartial.

The commission is committed to proceeding with the investigation. It won a substantial victory in the High Court last year and its interpretation of the Race Relations Act, 1976, was vindicated by Mr Justice Woolf's judgment. The Home Office has decided not to appeal against that decision.

Photograph by Harry Kerr

Royal dress designer: Lady Diana Spencer has chosen David and Elizabeth Emanuel, a husband and wife fashion house, to design her wedding dress (Suzy Menkes, our Fashion Editor, writes). They created the black, strapless taffeta gown worn by Lady Diana for her first public engagement at the Goldsmiths' Hall on Monday night, and the crinoline wedding dress above.

They specialize in romantic and extravagent ball gowns. Their Emanuel "special editions", made-to-order dresses, all with puff-ball skirts and lavish decoration, have been worn by Princess Michael of Kent, by Susan Hampshire, the actress, Bianca Jagger and Lulu, the singer.

The couple met when they were studying at Harrow College of Art. Four years ago they set up their tiny, mirrored salon in Brokk Street, London.

£1-a-week levy proposed by printing union

By Donald Macintyre
Labour Reporter

The National Graphical Association, the main craft printing union, is proposing a levy of £1 a week on members to stave off a financial crisis caused by the rise in unemployment.

The union is to ballot its 110,000 members on the proposal after disclosing to them that its provident fund could be wiped out by August, 1981, unless emergency action is taken, and that the NGA itself would soon be bankrupt.

The union leaders have warned members that 3 per cent of their number, 2,500 men and women, are out of work, the highest total in the union's history. The drain on the provident fund is running at £50,000 a week.

Unemployed members receive £26.67 a week for 26 weeks.

£100 Conteh fine for assault in restaurant

Mr John Conteh, the former world light-heavyweight boxing champion, was fined £100 at Marlborough Street Court, London, yesterday for throwing a young waiter across two tables at his West End restaurant, JCs, in Duke Street.

He was also ordered to pay £50 compensation to Mr Craig Morris, aged 19, the bruised waiter. Mr Conteh said after the hearing: "I will make it up to the kid. I want to say sorry to him and his family.

"I was emotionally disturbed at the time. I had one too many to drink."

Mr Conteh, aged 29, described as a businessman of Bushey, Hertfordshire, admitted assaulting Mr Morris from Ilford, Essex, causing him actual bodily harm, last Thursday evening when an episode of Eamon Andrew's *This is Your Life*" television programme was being filmed at JCs.

Det Constable Laurence Braysher told the magistrates that Mr Conteh had been under pressure because of matrimonial and financial difficulties.

Mr Morris's ribs, right arm and back were bruised, Mr Braysher said.

Town fights Army plan to raze 400 houses

From Our Correspondent
Southampton

The Army has been criticized over a plan to bulldoze 400 recently modernized houses in an area where six thousand people are waiting to be housed.

Army authorities have refused to sell the terrace houses—worth £5m, in Bazaar Road, South Tidworth, on Salisbury Plain, Wiltshire. They want the land for tank training.

Mrs Eleanor Williams, chairman of the Test Valley Borough Council's environmental committee, who represents the ward, has been campaigning to save the houses, which have been empty for six months.

She said yesterday: "They are perfectly good houses which would be ideal for first-time buyers. A lot of repair work has been carried out on them.

Soldiers and their families began moving out of the houses last autumn

Mrs Williams said the council was not told about the move. "The first we knew was when the soldiers and their families moved out. The houses are on crown land where the Army are a law unto themselves."

Mr David Wareing, Test Valley chief housing officer, said: "The Army says that because the houses are in a military area they cannot really be sold to the general public but in view of the present housing situation I think the most appropriate solution would be to put the homes on the open market."

In brief

Sandhurst cadets survive ordeal

Two officer cadets from the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst were found safe and well yesterday after being forced to spend almost 24 hours on the gale-swept Brecon Beacons in mid-Wales.

Michael Shaw, from Barnstaple, Devon, and Michael Servaes, of Farnborough, Hampshire, both aged 18, were lost while taking part in a map-reading exercise on Monday, but managed to find their way down to a mountain road using a compass bearing.

Stornoway plea fails

Defence policy cannot be discussed at a local public inquiry over the Ministry of Defence's £40m proposal for an extension of the Nato base at Stornoway airport, the Secretary of State for Scotland has decided. He rejected an appeal for widening the scope of the inquiry.

Man awarded £265,000

Mr Stephen John Latham, aged 23, of Coronation Drive, Crosby, Liverpool, was awarded £265,000 agreed damages and costs yesterday in the High Court for his injuries, including paralysis, suffered after a car accident.

Mother accused

Mrs Jean Riley, aged 53, was remanded in custody by magistrates at Kidderminster, Hereford and Worcester, yesterday charged with murdering her son, Michael, aged 20, whose body was pulled clear of a fire at his home.

Poison bait warning

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds issued a warning of prosecutions yesterday after four rare red kites were found dead in the Sussex countryside through eating poisoned bait probably left by gamekeepers.

Explosion at airfield

Two men were taken to hospital yesterday after an explosion and fire in a spraying plant at Bourn airfield, near Cambridge. One was later allowed home and the other was said to be fairly comfortable.

Ceiling fall injures 4

Four elderly women were injured and taken to hospital yesterday after a ceiling collapsed in a Peterborough club room where they were having lunch.

Power blackout

About 3,000 homes were blacked out and hundreds of factory workers sent home yesterday when power supplies failed at Woodley, near Reading, Berkshire.

Fuel costs push up transatlantic fares

By Arthur Reed

Air fares across the North Atlantic, for the past few years the travel bargain hunter's paradise, have risen by between 10 and 15 per cent, and in one case by 53 per cent, as airplines grapple with increased costs, and particularly those for fuel.

But there are still some cheap fares to be had by the discriminating holidaymaker pusing a good travel agent. Jetsave, the British travel operator, is offering return fares for £99 on some London-New York services this summer, while British Airways has reduced the price of its most popular holiday fare, the "Super Apex", from £252 return last summer to £251 this summer.

The standby single fare between London and New York, which was £97 last summer and £77 during the winter, has rissen to £99.

British Airways, "pond-hopper" fare which was £90 single to New York during the winter has gone up to £120. It did not exist last summer so that no comparison is possible.

While holiday flights will not be a great deal more expensive this summer over the last, the business traveller is being expected to pay a lot more. A single ticket on the Concorde supersonic service to New York is £955, compared with £837 during the winter and £687 last summer.

A first-class single costs £776 (£675 during the winter, £594 last summer), club class £309 (£281 and £247), and economy £214 (£194 and £189). The other large airlines on the North Atlantic routes, all suffering from the same economic pressures, are raising their prices as well.

British Airways promised yesterday that it will match any fare offered by any other airlines. An official said: "Last year's fares on the North Atlantic were the bargains of the century. Now they are having to reflect more realism".

Even Sir Freddie Laker, the champion of cheap air travel has not been immune from the rises. Although he has introduced a single walk-on fare to New York of only £39, his basic fare booked eight days in advance has gone up from £78 to £120, a rise of 53 per cent, and will rise to £142 in May and £157 in June.

Recall of homosexual 'wedding' leaflet challenged

By Clifford Longley
Religious Affairs Correspondent

The withdrawal of an official leaflet published by the Unitarian Church that refers to the availability of homosexual "wedding" ceremonies is to be challenged by the Unitarian congregation at Golders Green, London, as an act of discrimination.

The leaflet appeared at the end of last year, and the decision to disown it was taken by the council of the denomination last Saturday.

It bears the imprint of the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches, and is headed "Birth, Marriage, Death, and other Occasions".

Under the latter category, it states that some ministers will consider conducting services for various occasions, including "blessing a same-sex union or friendship".

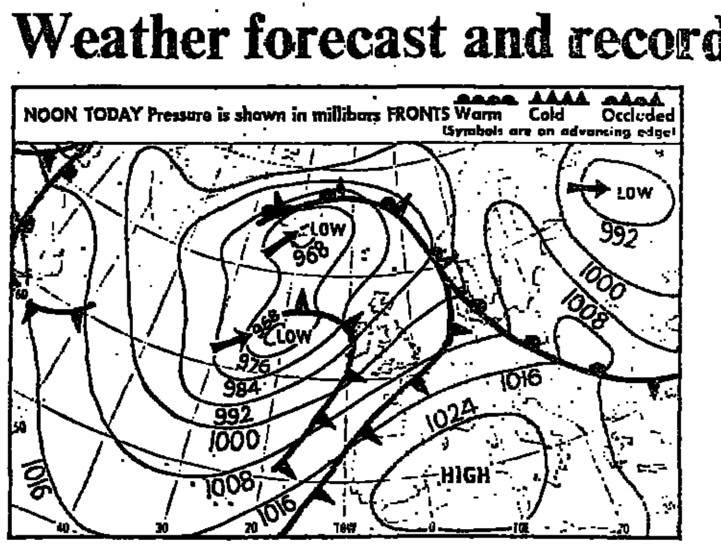
The Rev Keith Gilley, minister of Golders Green Unitarian Church, said: "I deeply regret the prejudice and ignorance which lies behind this reversal of policy."

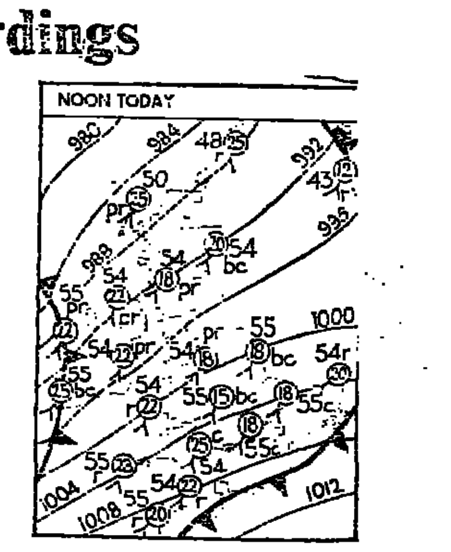
He said that he thought there were nearly 30 Unitarian ministers who were willing to conduct such ceremonies in the right circumstances, and he had himself performed about twenty of them.

They involved an exchange of promises including an intention of permanence, and often an exchange of "wedding" rings between the partners.

He said he would be proposing a motion asking for the leaflet to be restored at the London district annual meeting of the church later this month

Weather forecast and recordings





b—blue sky; bc—half clouded; c—cloudy; o—overcast; f—fog; d—drizzle; h—hail; m—mist; r—rain; s—snow; th—thunderstorm; p—showers; pr—periodical rain with snow. Wind speed in mph.

Today

Sun rises: 6.24 am | Sun sets: 5.58 pm
Moon rises: 9.17 am | Moon sets: 12.39 am tomorrow.

First quarter: March 13.
Lighting up: 6.28 pm to 5.52 am.
High water: London Bridge, 5.01 am, 7.3m; 5.33 pm, 6.9m. Avonmouth, 10.40 am, 12.9m; 10.52 pm, 12.2m. Dover, 2.06 am, 6.6m; 2.33 pm, 6.4m. Hull, 9.38 am, 7.3m; 9.55 pm, 7.5m. Liverpool, 2.24 am, 9.1m; 2.43 pm, 9.2m.
1 ft=0.3048m. 1m=3.2808 ft

A mild SW airstream covers the United Kingdom.

Forecasts for 6 am to midnight:

London, SE, central S, E, central N, NE England, East Anglia, Midlands, Channel Islands: Cloudy with occasional rain, becoming brighter with scattered showers; wind SW, fresh to strong; max temp 12°C to 14°C (54°F to 57°F).

W Midlands, SW, NW England, Lake District, Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee: Bright intervals and occasional showers; wind SW, fresh to strong; max temp 12°C (54°F).

Wales, Isle of Man, SW, NW Scotland, Glasgow, central Highlands, Argyll, N Ireland: Bright intervals, showers becoming widespread and prolonged; wind SW, strong, local gale; max temp 10°C to 12°C (50°F to 54°F).

Aberdeen, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Cloudy with occasional rain dying out quickly; wind SW, fresh to strong; max temp 8°C to 10°C (46°F to 50°F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Friday: Bright intervals, showers, prolonged in places; colder and windy at times.

Sea passages: S North Sea, Straits of Dover, English Channel (E), St George's Channel, Irish Sea: Wind S to SW, fresh to strong, occasionally gale force, sea very rough.

Yesterday

London: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 15°C (59°F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 11°C (52°F). Humidity, 6 pm, 67 per cent. Rain, 24 hr to 6 pm, 0.21in. Sun, 24 hr to 6 pm, nil. Bar, mean sea level, 6 pm, 1,004.8 millibars rising.
1,000 millibars=29.53in.

WEATHER REPORTS YESTERDAY MIDDAY: c, cloud; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun; sn, snow.

		C	F			C	F			C	F			C	F
Akrotiri	f	20	68	Cologne	r	13	55	La Palmas	s	27	81	Naples	f	11	52
Algiers	s	18	64	Copenhgn	s	6	43	Lisbon	s	21	70	Nice	r	13	55
Amstrdm	r	10	50	Dublin	r	13	55	Locarno	s	14	57	Oslo	s	5	41
Athens	s	16	61	Edinburgh	r	8	46	London	c	14	57	Paris	r	13	55
Barcelona	c	14	57	Florence	c	14	57	Luxembrg	r	11	52	Rome	s	16	61
Beirut	s	21	70	Funchal	f	22	72	Madrid	f	17	63	Ronldswy	c	9	48
Belfast	c	12	54	Geneva	c	15	59	Majorca	s	15	59	Stockholm	s	3	37
Berlin	s	8	46	Gibraltar	c	17	63	Malaga	s	17	63	Tel Aviv	s	20	68
Biarritz	f	24	75	Guernsey	c	11	52	Malta	s	18	64	Venice	c	8	46
Birmnghm	c	13	55	Helsinki	sn	−7	19	Manchester	c	12	54	Vienna	r	14	57
Bristol	r	13	55	Innsbruck	c	9	48	Moscow	c	2	36	Warsaw	f	5	41
Brussels	r	13	55	Istanbul	s	9	48	Munich	r	11	52	Zurich	c	13	55
Cardiff	r	11	52	Jersey	c	12	54								

Overseas selling prices
Australia $2; Austria Sch 20; Bahrain BD 0.650; Belgium B Frs 33; Canaries Pts 100; Cyprus 450 mils; Denmark Dkr 5.50; Dubai Dir 7.00; Finland Mkk 5; France Frs 4.50; Germany Dm 3.00; Greece Dr 50; Holland Gl 2.50; Iran IR 1.75; Iraq ID 0.300; Irish Republic 35p; Italy L 1100; Jordan LD 0.125; Kuwait KD 0.450; Lebanon LL 4.00; Luxembourg Lf 33; Madeira Esc 50; Malta 30c; Morocco Dir 7.00; Norway Kr 6.00; Oman OR 0.700; Pakistan Rs 10; Portugal Esc 50; Qatar QR 7.50; Saudi Arabia SR 5.25; Singapore $4.5; Spain Pes 100; Sweden Skr 6.00; Switzerland S Frs 3.00; Syria £S 5.30; Tunisia Din .450; US and Canada $1.50; UAE Dir 7.00; Yugoslavia Din 40.

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